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THE

SPIRITUAL SACRIFICE,

CONSISTING OF

PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS,

SELECTED FROM THE

WORKS OF EMINENT CHRISTIANS.

ARRANGED AS

A MANUAL OF DEVOTION

FOR

FAMILIES AND PRIVATE PERSONS.

LONDON:
JOHN HATCHARD & SON, PICCADILLY,
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PREFACE.

THE nature, obligation, and benefit of prayer, whether offered up in public, or in the family, or in private seclusion, is so clearly enforced in the Holy Scriptures — the precepts and promises annexed to the right performance of this duty are so numerous and satisfactory, — that, by duly reading the Bible, the Christian is placed in possession of every argument that can produce conviction of the necessity of aspiring to a better world and purer thoughts, and every inducement shewing the blessedness of being permitted while on earth to partake the employment of angels and beatified spirits, by approaching the Most High in the sacred intercourse of prayer.

The language of inspiration having so amply detailed this holy privilege, it becomes unnecessary, and would even be presumptuous, to attempt defining the principles of so important a duty in a brief hasty manner.

The practice of prayer will, however, be found most worthily exemplified in the following collection of devotional exercises from the writings of

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many eminent Christians, forming an excellent illustration of praying with the heart and the understanding also—zealous, but not intemperate — the intention pious, and devoutly expressed — the matter of each petition lawful, and the manner humble and reverential—fervour balanced by fear, and joy by contrition,—faith, hope, and charity combining the whole into an acceptable oblation. Derived from nearly sixty different sources, and composed by Christians separated from each other by remoteness of time or country, the spirit of prayer is exhibited in almost all circumstances of joy or sorrow — under which two heads every event of human life or affection of the mind may be classed — the same wants, the same sinfulness, the same mercies, and the same salvation, causing all true Christian souls throughout the world to unite in offering up one spiritual sacrifice with a pure heart and faith unfeigned.

These prayers have been arranged so as to assist families and private individuals in their daily worship, and with the sincere desire of promoting the welfare, peace, and holiness of the Christian Church.

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THE

SPIRITUAL SACRIFICE.

PART FIRST.—FAMILY PRAYERS.

SHORT PRAYERS,

THAT MAY BE USED BEFORE READING THE SCRIPTURES.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O Holy and Eternal Jesus, who hast begotten us by thy word, renewed us by thy Spirit, fed us by thy sacraments, and by the daily ministry of thy gospel, dost still go on to build us up to life eternal; Let thy most Holy Spirit be present with us, and assist us in the hearing and reading thy sacred word, that we may do it humbly, reverently, without prejudice, with a mind ready and desirous to learn, and to obey, that we may be readily furnished and instructed to every good work, and may practise all thy holy laws and commandments to the glory of thy name, O Holy and Eternal Jesus. Amen.

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JEREMY TAYLOR.

Most holy Jesus, bestow upon us docile, pious, prudent, and ductile spirits, that no invitation of grace may prove ineffectual, but produce upon us excellent effects—the secret whispers of thy Spirit prevailing upon our affections, in order to piety and obedience. Accept the oblation of ourselves and of our services; but be thou pleased to purify the offering, lest the enemy pollute the sacrifice, or divide the gift, or question the title: but, that we may be wholly thine, sanctify our will, and replenish us with piety; then shall we serve thee all our lives, and, through thy blood, partake of thy kingdom, in which thou reignest gloriously and eternally. Amen.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Eternal Lord, let thy Holy Spirit dwell in our souls, instructing our knowledge, sanctifying our thoughts, guiding our affections; that it may be the great employment of our life to meditate on thy law, to study thy will, to understand our duty; that ignorance may neither occasion a sin, nor become a punishment. Take from us all vanity of spirit, but give us grace to understand, diligence and attention to consider, care to lay up, and carefulness to practise, all the intimations of thy will contained in thy sacred Scriptures. Grant this for thy mercies' sake, in Christ Jesus Amen.

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ST AMBROSE.

Teach us, O Lord, by thy Holy Spirit to understand and believe thy great and wonderful mysteries with that faith, humility, contrition, reverence, and devotion, that may be pleasing unto thee, and conducive to our souls' salvation. Empty our hearts of all vain, idle, wandering thoughts, and all sinful exorbitant desires; give us hearts to fear, love, honour, and delight in thee, and so to follow thee that we may be happy in the enjoyment of thy presence for ever. Amen.

DR LUCAS.

Lord, we beseech thee, give us grace to be frequent and fervent in prayer; assist us by thy Spirit for this more solemn approach unto thee; then shall we feel thy wind blowing upon the garden of our hearts, and the spices flowing forth. Grant us, therefore, O God, thy Spirit, that we may pray with understanding and fervency, with a prepared mind, and devout soul, that our prayer may not be the sacrifice of sin, but an acceptable sacrifice to thee, and an instrument of holiness, enabling us to fight the good fight of faith, that we may receive an everlasting crown; and all this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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DR LUCAS.

O thou Holy Spirit of God, thou divine principle of a divine life, remove all blindness, hardness, and impenitence from off the hearts of all those who read the truths of the gospel of Christ, and grant that they may receive the word with an entire humility and pure affections, and bring forth the fruit of it in their conversation, that when the winds blow, and the rain descends, they may be like houses built upon a rock, and stand unshaken in the great day of judgment. Amen.

DR LUCAS.

O Eternal God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the author of all good gifts! Enlighten our understandings, that we may believe thy gospel; set at liberty our will, that we may approve and love the things that are excellent, that the belief of the gospel of the blessed Jesus may engage us to love, obey, and rely upon him. Give us such a lively sight and firm belief of the things not seen, as may raise us above all the corruptions which are in the world, that so our lives may be full of joy, our latter end of peace; our souls, in their separation of rest, and our whole man in the resurrection, full of delight and glory. Amen.

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KING EDWARD VI. PRIMER.

O Lord, as thou alone art the author of the Holy Scriptures, so likewise can no man, although he be never so wise or learned, understand them, except he be taught by thy Holy Spirit, which alone can lead the faithful unto all truth. Vouchsafe, therefore, we humbly beseech thee, to breathe into our hearts thy blessed Spirit, which may renew the senses of our minds, reveal unto us the true understanding of thy holy mysteries, and plant in us such a certain and infallible knowledge of thy truth, that no subtle persuasions of any man's wisdom may pluck us from thy truth; but that, as we have learned the true understanding of thy blessed will, so we may remain in the same continually, come life, come death, unto the glory of thy blessed name. Amen.

CERTAIN GODLY PRAYERS, 1639.

Grant unto us, O merciful God, we most heartily beseech thee, knowledge and true understanding of thy word, that all ignorance being expelled, we may know what thy will and pleasure is in all things, and how to do our duty, and truly to walk in our vocation; and that also we may express in our living those things that we do know; that we be not only knowers of thy word, good Lord, but also workers of the same, by our only Saviour and Lord, Christ Jesus. Amen.

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THOMAS AQUINAS.

Lord, we, as sinners, now apply unto thee as the Redeemer of fallen man; as miserable, to the Father of mercy; as unclean, to the fountain of purity; as poor and needy, to the Lord of all bounty; as blind and ignorant, to the brightness and splendour of the Omnipotent; as infirm and weak, to the strength of Israel and Rock of Ages. And oh! that it may please thee to enlighten our darkness, to heal our infirmities, to enrich our poverty, to strengthen our weakness, to wash away all our pollutions, and by thy precious blood to cleanse our hearts and lives from every impurity both of flesh and spirit, that we may perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord. Amen.

ST AUGUSTINE.

Merciful Father, who dost not require of frail and sinful beings, that which is impossible to perform, but in thy Scriptures instructest us in the mystery, and commandest us to look unto thee for the power of godliness; Enlighten our minds to comprehend, and establish our hearts to fulfil thy commandments in faith, that through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we may become children of God, and joint heirs of salvation. Amen.

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WEEK'S PREPARATION.

Hear us, O gracious Father, Almighty God; infuse into our hearts that Spirit which renews us after thine own image in righteousness and true holiness. Blessed Jesus, who seekest to redeem sinners, have pity upon us; establish and fix our changeable and inconstant thoughts; set up thy kingdom within us, for to become thy faithful servants is better than to have the empire of this world. For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord, thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

BISHOP ANDREWS.

Glory be to thee, O God, for the light bestowed upon our darkened minds by the means of thy Sacred Scriptures, shining forth in the examples of patriarchs, the revelations of prophets, the sweet solace of holy psalms, the instruction of wise proverbs, the profit and experience of faithful histories, the glad tidings of salvation proclaimed in the gospel of Christ our Redeemer, through the blood of the everlasting covenant. O thou, who hast shewed us such light, perfect thy work within us, that we may be renewed in our souls, and dwell for ever in light immortal with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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ANONYMOUS.

Gracious Lord, may we not only read and hear thy word, but seriously consider the things which it declares unto us; we acknowledge our own insufficiency, and therefore humbly implore thy grace to influence us with pure and pious dispositions, that we may receive the truth with joy, nourish it within our hearts by faith, and become duly qualified to participate in that eternal happiness, purchased for thy faithful servants by the blood of our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

ETHIOPIC LITURGY.

O God, thrice blessed Trinity, open our eyes now to see, our ears always to hear, and our hearts to receive thy Gospel; and of thy great grace give us to understand both thy greatness and thy goodness, and cause thy holy will to be done within our souls, for thine is the kingdom over all, O Lord. Glory and blessing be to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for ever. Amen.

TOPLADY.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, vouchsafe at this time to cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

O gracious Lord God, who not only permittest, but invitest us to present our petitions to thee, Grant, we beseech thee, that the frequency of our prayers may be somewhat proportionable to the need we have of thy mercy, and answerable to the reverential humility due by us to thine awful majesty; may we so ask that we may receive, so seek that we may find, and knock that it may be opened unto us; that from praying to thee here, we may be raised to praising thee eternally in thy glory, through the merits and intercession of our Redeemer. Amen.

THOMAS A KEMPIS.

Send forth thy light and truth, O Lord, that they may move upon this barren earth. We are earth, without form and void; a deep covered with darkness, till thou sayest, "Let there be light." Pour forth thy treasures from the throne of grace; water our hearts with the dew of heaven, that the barren soil may produce fruit worthy to be offered up to thee. Raise our fallen souls oppressed with the burden of sin, and give us such a perception of the permanent glories of heaven, that we may despise and forget the fleeting vanities of earth, from this time forth for evermore. Amen.

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TOPLADY.

Unto thee do we lift up our eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens. Have respect, we humbly beseech thee, both to us and our offerings, for the sake of Him who offered up himself for our offences, and rose again for our justification. Meet us with a blessing, who desire to meet thee in prayer; and make thy throne a throne of grace to us, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

TOPLADY.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, Vouchsafe at this time to cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, worthily magnify thy holy name, and offer thee a sacrifice of righteousness, acceptable to thy glorious Majesty, in and through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ANONYMOUS.

Almighty Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whom truly to know is everlasting life, enable us so perfectly to understand thy blessed word, and so entirely to obey thy righteous laws with godly and sincere affections, that we may obtain that immortal life which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits of Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

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ST CHRYSOSTOM.

O Lord! thou lover of mankind, enlighten our hearts with the light of divine wisdom, and open the eyes of our understandings that we may understand the preaching of the Gospel, and graft in us the fear of thy blessed commandments. Grant us to subdue all carnal desires, that thinking and doing every thing according to thy good pleasure, we may arrive at the spiritual habitation; for thou art the life of our souls and bodies, O Christ, our God! and to thee we offer up our praise, together with thine eternal Father, and holy, blessed, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, even unto ages of ages. Amen.

DR RICHARD SHERLOCK.

O Lord, the giver of all good things, vouchsafe unto thy servants fervently to desire, rightly to understand, and constantly to persevere in the practice of all thy evangelical precepts. Let not any powers upon earth, nor any princes or powers of hell, withdraw our hearts from thee, or our actions from the rule of righteousness; but let thy testimonies be ever our counsel and comfort in our pilgrimage upon earth, and in the end let us arrive in heaven to ascribe glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost for evermore. Amen.

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BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

Almighty God, who through thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, hast overcome death, and opened to us the gate of everlasting life, we humbly beseech thee, that as, by thy special grace preventing us, thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O eternal God, who hast made all things for man, and man for thy glory, Sanctify our bodies and our souls, our thoughts and our intentions, our words and our actions, that whatsoever we shall think, speak, or do, may be designed by us to the glory of thy name, and by thy blessing it may be efficacious and successful to thy honour here, and our eternal welfare hereafter, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

TOPLADY.

O Lord, thou art good unto them that wait for thee, and to the soul that seeketh thee. We desire, at this time, to wait for thee, and to wait upon thee; and to seek thee in the way of thy appointment. Give us a token for good, and an answer of peace, while we draw near unto thee in the name of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

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PETER MARTYR.

Lord, make us truly sensible of thy great mercy in providing for our instruction and consolation, the blessed and most holy Scriptures, thoroughly fraught with abundance of all good counsel and most sweet comfort, freely offered and laid open before all men. Inspire us with zeal and diligence to search the Scriptures, and enable us so to apply our hearts and minds to the revelations of divine grace, that we may find the way to eternal life, through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

THOMAS A KEMPIS.

O Lord our God, eternal Truth! speak to our souls, lest being only outwardly warned, not inwardly quickened, we die, and be found unfruitful; lest the word heard and not obeyed, known and not loved, professed and not kept, turn to our condemnation. Speak, therefore, O Lord, for thy servants hear. Thou only hast the words of eternal life! O speak to the comfort of our souls, the renovation of our natures, and to the eternal praise and glory of thy holy name. Amen.

TOPLADY.

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

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ANONYMOUS.

We give thanks unto thee, good Lord, the benefactor of our souls, that thou hast been graciously pleased to reveal unto us, thy unworthy creatures, the precious mysteries of thy divine love and wisdom. Merciful Father, assist our hearts to receive thy word with all humility; instruct our ignorance in the knowledge of thee; reward our faith, by enabling us to understand the marvellous words of thy law, and strengthen our hopes of attaining unto salvation, through the merit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANONYMOUS.

O Lord, who art the author and giver of all true wisdom, be pleased to impart the beams of thy heavenly light, discovering unto us the perfections of thy blessed will and commandments, that, from examining thy Holy Scriptures, we may take them as the rule and measure of our duty, compare our lives with thy law, and by thy merciful assistance, may be enabled to become true and faithful servants of Christ, members of his holy Church, and partakers of his unutterable glory, for evermore. Amen.

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FIRST WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

REV. E. BICKERSTETH.

O Almighty God, Creator, Governor, and Upholder of all things, who, after making the heavens and earth, didst rest on the seventh day, teach us now to rest from sin and earthly labour. O thou, whose Son did, as on this day, rise again from the dead, grant us grace to rise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness. Help us now, in his name, to seek thy blessing on those holy duties to which the Sabbath is set apart.

We bless and praise thee for the appointment of this day, and for all the means of grace which we enjoy in this favoured land. We bless thee that thy house is open—that thy ministers have liberty to preach, and we have opportunity and inclination to go and assemble with thy people, and hear thy holy word. Above all, we thank thee for the knowledge of Jesus Christ—for justification and salvation through his life, death, and resurrection.

We praise thee for the gifts of thy Holy Spirit. Blessed, for ever blessed be thou, the God and

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Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for all these thy benefits.

Great have been thy mercies to us; but with shame we confess, that we have slighted thy goodness, and carelessly regarded thy great salvation. How many Sabbaths have we broken! how many warnings and threatenings have we trifled with! how many invitations of mercy have we neglected! How cold have been our prayers; how great our irreverence; how inexcusable our unbelief!

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him. Forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances. Return again, and bless us. Graciously be present with us, through all the solemn services of this day. Enable us to go to thy house in the spirit of prayer. Pour out upon us, and all that shall meet in thy name, the spirit of grace and supplication. Let none of us draw near to thee with our lips only, while our hearts are far from thee; but enable us to worship thee in spirit and in truth.

Help all of us, not only to abstain from engaging in our usual business, but also from worldly conversation and vain thoughts. Let us give this day to reading and hearing thy word—to meditation, self examination, and prayer.

Father of mercies, we beseech thee to bless all that minister in holy things. Grant them humility, faithfulness, watchfulness, and zeal. Stand by

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and strengthen them this day. We especially pray for him who ministers amongst us. May he this day be enabled to speak a word in season to all who shall hear him.

Grant, we beseech thee, that this Sabbath may be distinguished by great and singular mercies to thy Church. Be with all Christian congregations met to worship thee. May the ministry of the word this day convert many sinners. Strengthen those that are weak, and confirm those that are strong.

Give thy holy word free course, and let it be glorified in every land, and among every people. Hear us, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

BISHOP ANDREWS.

Merciful and compassionate, long suffering and patient Lord God, we humbly acknowledge our manifold sins towards thee, by trusting to vanity, by following deceit, and being occupied in ungodly works with them that practise wickedness. Behold us without plea, without excuse; speechless and self-condemned. O let the multitude of thy mercies triumph over the multitude of our sins. Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make thy grace sufficient for us; by the loving-kindness of the Father, by the sacrifice of the Son, and by the intercession of the Holy Spirit, have mercy upon us!

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O Lord, be thou our God; let us have none beside thee; let us love nothing in comparison with thee. Incline our hearts to thy testimonies; order our steps according to thy word, so shall no iniquity have dominion over us.

We believe in thee, O Lord, the Father, the Word, and the Spirit, one only true God; that all things were created by thy almighty power and love; that all have been renewed and restored by the goodness and mercy exhibited in the person of thy Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, who for us men, and for our salvation, was made flesh, did suffer and was crucified, descended into hell and rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, from whence he shall come again and judge the quick and the dead. We also believe, that by the illumination and powerful operation of the Holy Ghost, a peculiar people has been called, from all parts of the world, to be knit into one society, united and distinguished by belief of the truth, and by holiness of life: that, as members of this body, we partake of the communion of saints, and forgiveness of sins in this world: and, by virtue of the same membership, do assuredly expect the resurrection of the flesh, and life everlasting in the world to come.

This pure and holy faith, Lord, we believe,—help thou our unbelief. Strengthen in us that which is weak, and add to us that which is wanting. This faith let us have grace always to exert and improve, by loving thee, O Father, in

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return for thy tender affection; by fearing thee, O Almighty, from an awful sense of thy power; by committing our souls in well-doing to thee, O most faithful Creator. Let us seek and attain salvation in thee, O Jesus, our Saviour; from thee, O Christ, the Anointed, let us have the adoption and inheritance of the sons of God. Let our belief in thee, O Holy Spirit, be such as may qualify us to partake of all thy necessary and saving inspirations.

O Lord, on whom the eyes of all do wait, remember every creature of thine for good, and visit the whole world with thy mercy. Thou who didst for this end both die and rise again, that thou mightest be the Lord both of the dead and the living, let thy blessing be ever upon us, both in life and in death. We entreat thee, gracious Lord, to look down on all sorts and conditions of men; the young and the aged, the sick and the healthy, the poor and the rich, all being liable to temptations, and therefore needing thy grace. Have pity upon those who are driven to despair of thy mercy, the timorous and faint-hearted, all who are destitute and distressed, and those who now lie expiring in the agonies of death. To thee we commend our friends and neighbours, our relations and benefactors; let thy peace be upon them, and bring them in safety to thy heavenly kingdom.

And now we render thanks to thee for the gifts of thy good providence. The evening draws on

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apace, do thou sustain us. Abide with us, O Lord, for the time is far spent; the shadows are stretched out, and the day is declining upon us. Let thy strength now especially be made perfect in our weakness. For as the day, so life is near its end; a life wherein we scarcely live. The night posts on, so doth that death of which night is the image — a night after which, in this world, we must expect no morning. Let us always be mindful, that the days of darkness are many; and let this thought excite us to finish our work with diligence, before that night comes wherein no man can work. Make us to remember thee upon our beds, and to think upon thee when we are waking. Then let us commune with our own hearts, and search out our spirits; and, when we wake, do thou be present with us.

And now, Lord, we will lay us down in peace, and take our rest, trusting for safety to thee, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, ever blessed to all eternity. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

REV. B. JENKS.

We do here present ourselves this morning before thy divine Majesty, most blessed Lord God, desiring to pay unto thee that tribute of homage and service, of prayer and praise, which

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is so justly due. We desire to approach thee in such a manner, that thou mayest mercifully accept both us and our services, at the hands of Jesus Christ. In his great name we come to thee, and worship at thy footstool; in his name we implore thy pardon: we entreat thee to give us an increase of thy grace, and fresh tokens of thy love. We are not worthy, indeed, that thou shouldst in any way be entreated of us; but worthy is the Lamb, that was slain to take away the sins of the world; worthy is the Lamb, that for his sake thou shouldst do more than we can ask, or even think; for he has fulfilled those holy laws which we have broken, and perfectly satisfied thy justice for all our transgressions of them. Let his precious blood cleanse us from all our sins, and thy Holy Spirit renew our souls, quickening us to the duties of thy holy commandments.

O teach us to know thee, our God, and help us to do thy will as we ought to do. Give us hearts to fear thee and to love thee; let no temptations draw us, nor any tribulations drive us, from thee; but let all thy dispensations to us be received as messengers of thy love to our souls, and make us nearer to thy blessed self, and fitter for thy heavenly kingdom. Quicken us, O Lord, in our dulness; that, instead of dishonouring thee by our lifeless and listless services, we may abound in thy work, and be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Make us also faithful in our intercourse with our neighbours; ready to do good, and to

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bear evil; just and kind, merciful and meek, peaceable and patient, sober and temperate, humble and self-denying, inoffensive and exemplary in our conduct; that so, glorifying thee here upon earth, we may, at our departure hence, be received into the joy of our Lord, and be for ever glorified in thy heavenly kingdom.

O thou that hast kept us alive to this day, and hast refreshed us during the night season, renew thy mercy to us, together with this morning light; thou that makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice, lift up the light of thy countenance upon us; and, as thou art ever present with us, make us sensible of thy presence, that we may duly remember thee in all our ways, and wisely demean ourselves in all our affairs. Be with us, good Lord, and let thy grace fall on us this day, and all the days of our life.

O, never leave us; never, never forsake us; but be our guide unto death, in death our comfort, and, after death, our everlasting portion. O hear us from heaven, thy dwelling place; and, when thou hearest, have mercy. Forgive us the sins of our persons and of our prayers, and do more for us than we are worthy to expect at thy hands, for his sake who alone is worthy; in whose comprehensive works we sum up all our desires. "Our Father," &c.

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MONDAY EVENING.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Eternal King, thy throne is established and immoveable from everlasting; before the mountains were brought forth, before thou hadst formed the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God. All things that exist, whether visible or invisible, derive from thee their being, and all that they possess; all from the least to the greatest are subservient to thy purposes, who art their supreme king and father. Thou art great, and greatly to be praised; impress on our minds, most bountiful Father, a profound sense of humility; accept our earnest petition and prayer to be delivered from the snares and allurements of the world and the flesh, which lead us to misplace our affections on the things around us; may thy Spirit, whom we earnestly and humbly beg of thee, descend into our hearts, filling them with celestial purity.

O God, from whom we have been deriving every blessing and every comfort, we would render unto thee this evening the homage of our hearts, as well as of our lips; and whilst we feel that day unto day has been uttering speech, and night unto night teaching knowledge, we would all the more readily, and because of the vanity of earthly objects, pleasures, and occupations, flee to thee,

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the unchanging God, as the only source of abiding happiness. Mayest thou teach us what is good, and help us to hold fast that which we have received, until our warfare is accomplished, and our journey begun. Our present situation and wants are known to thee, and thou art very merciful, and full of compassion. Deal with us, O Lord, as thou seest we have need. We come to thee this night with thankfulness for the mercies experienced during another day; with petitions for pardon of those sins we have this day committed; with supplication and prayer for the continuance of thy goodness. Keep us from evil this night. We will lay ourselves down and sleep; may we be protected by thy watchful providence, and awake in the morning, rejoicing in that peace of God which passeth all understanding.

Let the nations acknowledge thee, and the isles be glad in thee, especially the land which we inhabit; and, that we may be truly blessed, may we daily submit more perfectly and dutifully to the holy laws of the Gospel. Bless this nation. Watch over our friends. Reward our benefactors, and forgive our enemies. Inspire our hearts with gladness, thou who alone art the fountain of pure and ever-flowing joy; and lead us by the paths of righteousness and grace to thy rest, for the sake of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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TUESDAY MORNING.

WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

O righteous Lord, who hatest iniquity, we, thy sinful creatures, acknowledge our daily and continual transgressions against thee, in thought, word, and deed. O fit us for thy mercy, by giving us deep and hearty repentance; we beseech thee, by the power of thy grace, so to renew and purify our hearts, that we may become new creatures, forsaking every evil way, and living in constant, sincere, universal obedience to thee all our days, that behaving as good and faithful servants, we may by thy mercy be received at last into the joy of our Lord.

Have mercy, we beseech thee, upon all men, and grant that the precious ransom which was paid by thy Son for all may be effectual to the saving of all. Give thy enlightening grace to those who are in darkness, and thy converting grace to those who are in sin. Look with the tenderest compassion upon the universal Church, with all that profess thy name by purity and holiness to thee, and bind them to each other by brotherly love. Bless all whom thou hast appointed as our governors; so rule their hearts and strengthen their hands, that they may neither want will nor power to punish wickedness and vice, and to maintain true religion and virtue.

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Have pity, merciful Father, on all that are in trouble and affliction; be a Father to the fatherless, and plead the cause of the widow; comfort the feeble in mind, support the weak, heal the sick, relieve the needy, defend the oppressed, and administer to all according to their several necessities. Let thy blessings rest upon all who are near and dear to us, granting them whatever thou deemest necessary either to their souls or bodies. Reward all who have done us good, and pardon those who have done or wished us evil; working in them and us all that holiness which may make us acceptable in thy sight.

We praise thee for the many blessings we enjoy, the comforts, as well as necessaries of life; for those continual protections of thy hand by which we are kept from dangers, and those gracious deliverances out of such as have befallen us; and for that mercy which has sweetened and allayed those troubles thou hast seen fit not wholly to remove. For these blessings we glorify thy name, and may they be an earnest of those richer blessings prepared for those that love thee through faith in him whom thou hast made the author of eternal salvation to all who obey him, even our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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TUESDAY EVENING.

REV. AUG. M. TOPLADY.

Infinitely great, and infinitely gracious God, thy glory exceeds our utmost thoughts, and thy mercies are over all thy works. We, thy sinful creatures, have particular reason to admire and adore, not only thy patience, which bears with us, notwithstanding all that we have done against thee, but likewise thy never-ceasing bounty, by which our comforts are continued, and our wants are supplied. We desire to approach thee as our kind and merciful Father in Jesus Christ, humbly beseeching thee to wash away our sins in his most precious blood, and to give us a sufficient measure of thy grace and Holy Spirit, to enable us to strive and prevail against them.

Thou didst create man, O Lord, after thine own blessed image, but we have destroyed ourselves, and come short of thy glory; the crown is fallen from our heads, and wo unto us, for we are sinners both by nature and by practice. Justly mightest thou swear in thy wrath, that we shall not enter into thy rest. Yet suffer us, and enable us to plead in faith thy gracious promise, that whosoever trusteth in the Saviour thou hast provided, and cometh unto thee by him, shall never perish, nor fall into condemnation, but have everlasting life. Lord, we believe; O help our

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unbelief! and work in us that unfeigned repentance towards God, and that right faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may be of the number of them that do indeed repent and believe to the saving of the soul. Save us, O good Lord, from our sinful selves, and from the love of the present evil world, and from every thing that opposes thy grace, and tends to hurt our souls. Stablish us in thy love, strengthen us to perform thy will, and settle our faith on Christ, the Rock of Ages.

To thy mercy in him we would humbly commit ourselves this night. Be our sun to enlighten us; be our shield to defend us. Grant us, if it please thee, rest of body and peace of mind. Let the voice of joy and health be heard in our dwelling; make our walls salvation, and our gates praise. Comfort all who want the comforts we enjoy, and grant suitable supplies of mercy, both spiritual and temporal, to all the afflicted, wheresoever they are, and howsoever tried.

Remember, with the favour that thou bearest to thy people, all our absent friends and relatives; be thou a friend to them, and may they stand in a covenant relation to thee. Make them and us such as thou wouldst have us, and such as thou wilt accept of in Christ Jesus, here to thy gracious favour, and hereafter to thy glorious kingdom. Hear us, O God of the spirits of all flesh! Hear us in behalf of ourselves and others; hear others in behalf of themselves and us; and convert those who pray neither for themselves nor others.

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Above all, hear the Son of thy love, who intercedes, we trust, for us at thy right hand. To him, with thyself, and the blessed Spirit, enable us to ascribe everlasting praise and glory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER.

O most mighty and gracious God, to whom we are indebted for all the good things we enjoy,—for in thee we live, and move, and have our being,—we desire to adore and bless thy glorious name, humbly beseeching thee to accept this our morning sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for the comfortable refreshment of the night past; for thy preservation of this family from all perils and dangers of the night, and for bringing us in health and safety to the beginning of this day, in which we beseech thee, O Lord, to keep us without sin.

Be with us, good Lord, this day in all places, and upon all occasions; direct and guide, sanctify and preserve us; keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; defend us from the power and malice of the devil, from the corruptions of our own sinful natures, and from those sins especially which seem most habitual to us. Pardon all the transgressions we have at any time committed; grant that we may die unto sin, and rise again unto righteousness; that henceforth being free from sin, we may live indeed.

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Direct us, O Lord, in all our affairs; bless our labours and studies, and give us grace to do our duty in that state of life whereunto thou hast deigned to call us, and make us therewith content; continue to us the blessings we enjoy, supply us with those we need, and turn from us all those evils which we most righteously have deserved, or which either the malice of the devil, or the wickedness, or the misfortunes of this world may bring upon us.

Teach us to direct our conversation as becometh the Gospel; fill our hearts with such honest and upright affections for truth and justice, that no worldly interest or advantage may be able to shake our integrity, which we beg may be always supported by thy providence; and that in the use of honest and lawful means, we may improve those talents which, by thy wisdom and goodness, have been committed to our charge.

And now, Lord, relying firmly on thy gracious promises, we recommend unto thee all that thou hast bestowed on us, — our bodies and souls, beloved friends and relations, — keep them and us from all evil, teach us all that is good, carry us safely through the dangers and temptations of this world, and let thy holy will be done in us and by us, granting us always those things, whether prosperous or adverse, that may best conduce to our eternal salvation, through the merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

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WEDNESDAY EVENING.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER.

O Lord God, that hatest iniquity, yet delightest in mercy, we lift up our souls unto thee, beseeching thee to look upon us and release us from the burden of corrupt inclinations.

Forgive, we humbly entreat thee, whatever we have done amiss this day, either against thee, our neighbour, or ourselves. O cleanse us from our secret and unknown transgressions; may we consider seriously on the multitude of our sins, and the judgments pronounced by thee against them. Give us, good Lord, new hearts, new affections, and new desires, that we may love thee with sincerity, and serve thee with greater faithfulness than hitherto, redeeming our misspent time by employing the remainder of our days in thy service, and to thy glory.

Grant that in the days of health and prosperity we may consider our latter end, remembering the great account we must one day give at the judgment seat of Christ, that when the hour of our departure shall come, we may meet death without fear or amazement, and in a well grounded hope of thy mercy, may cheerfully resign our souls into thy hands, being willing and even desirous to leave this world whenever thou, in thy wisdom, shalt deem fitting.

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Be gracious, most merciful Father, to the whole race of mankind; pity the deplorable state of those who know not thee, and have never heard thy name; reform the wicked and impenitent, converting them from their iniquity; relieve and comfort those that suffer under the torments of a wounded spirit; let the sorrowful sighing of the afflicted come before thee, and deliver them in thy good time from all their tribulations.

Give us grace to make a right application of all the manifold blessings we possess, both spiritual and temporal, and vouchsafe to continue to us thy gracious favour and protection; defend us and all who are near and dear to us, in every peril and temptation, from the powers of sin and darkness; and after the refreshments of rest and sleep, may we rise again in health and safety, our hearts full of love to thee, and our bodies renewed to thy holy service, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the fullest sense of whose words we pray, saying, "Our Father," &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

THOMAS A KEMPIS.

We bless thee, O heavenly Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that thou hast deigned to remember creatures so poor and helpless; and unworthy as we are of all comfort, hast visited our benighted souls with enlivening beams of heavenly light.

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Blessing, and praise, and glory, be unto thee, and thy only begotten Son, and thy Holy Spirit the Comforter, for ever and ever. Because our love is but feeble, and our resolutions imperfect, we have continual need of thy strength and consolation; do thou, therefore, instruct us out of thy law, deliver us from malignant passions and sinful desires, that being healed and purified, we may love with more truth, may suffer with more patience, may persevere with greater constancy.

Teach us to place no confidence in our frail and mortal fellow creatures, however endeared by reciprocal affection or offices of kindness, nor to be unduly grieved at any change in them, but may we rely solely on thee; and let our fear and our hope be in God, who will do all that is conducive to our deliverance from evil.

Let us no longer deem highly of ourselves, nor arrogate any excellence, but empty our hearts of all self-esteem, and make them humble as the dust of which we are made; for the safety of our eternal condition depends, not on human knowledge, nor on exaltation to dignity and power, but on our being grounded in humility, established in faith, filled with divine charity, seeking in all things the glory of God, with purity and integrity.

We offer thee our thanks for having enriched this life with many comforts; we receive them from thy hands with gratitude, as being freely bestowed from thy merciful bounty, and not due

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to our own merits. Thy holy "angels are ordained ministering spirits, and sent to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation;" and what infinitely transcendeth all, the Eternal Omnipotent God has condescended to take upon him the "form of a servant," that he might redeem us from slavery. What returns of love and duty can we make thee, for all thine inestimable blessings? O that we were able to serve thee all the days of our lives! that we could serve thee truly but for one day! Lord, make that possible to us by grace, which we find impossible by nature.

Merciful Jesus, by thy power, purify the whole world till it become a temple consecrated to thee, and resounding with songs of thankfulness and praise, and make thy faithful servants conquerors of themselves, and heirs of heaven to all eternity. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Almighty God, the Father of holiness, and the fountain of grace and strength, of peace and truth, of health and life, we beseech thee to bless us, by turning us from our iniquities, to shew the mightiness of thy power, and the glories of thy grace, by giving us strength to prevail against all our enemies, and victory in all temptations.

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Thou wert pleased in mercy to reconcile us when we were enemies, and to forgive us in the midst of our provocations against thy eternal majesty, finding out a remedy which mankind could never ask, even making an atonement for us by the death of thy Son, sanctifying us by the blood of the covenant and the influences of the Holy Spirit; let thy grace so perpetually assist and encourage our endeavours, conduct our will, and fortify our intentions, that we may persevere in that condition in which thou hast put us, by the grace of the covenant, and the mercies of the Redeemer.

We acknowledge, O Father of our life and Saviour of our souls, that we deserve less than the least of all thy mercies, and our iniquity is greater than we can bear; our thoughts are vain, our conversation trifling, our devotion cold, our duties imperfect, our repentance unavailing, our holiness such as to be our reproach. We confess, that we neither know thee as we ought to do, nor have been solicitous to acquire that knowledge; we live in the world to ourselves, but without a just regard of thee and of religion; we daily receive thy blessings, and yet we provoke thee every day; we tremble not at thy judgments, though we have deserved them, nor fear till the evil day comes upon us: our condition is sinful, our hopes are broken, and we often forget ourselves, and still neglect and despise our own danger.

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But, O God our Redeemer, merciful and gracious, have mercy upon us; let us not persevere in any one sin, nor pass from one sin to another. Smite us not in thine anger, and let not thy wrath descend upon our guilty heads; preserve us from all expressions of thy wrath, and let us rejoice in thy loving-kindness for ever.

And that we may reasonably and humbly hope for thy final mercies and deliverances, be pleased to give us all that we need, in order to the performance of our duty, and work all that in us by which we may please thee. Instruct us in thy truth, and prepare the means of salvation for us, providing for the necessities and complying with the capacities of every one of us. Take from us all blindness of heart and carelessness of spirit, all irreligion and wilful ignorance. Keep us from vicious compliances and evil customs, and let not our fear of man cause us to sin against thee; keep us upright in our religion and worshipping of thee, and let no change of the world engage us in a state of life against our duty. Hear us, blessed Saviour, and grant our petitions; we comprise all our requests for ourselves, and the whole race of mankind, in that form of words which thou in mercy hast taught us: "Our Father," &c.

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FRIDAY MORNING.

BISHOP WILSON.

O most merciful God, by whom the world is governed and preserved, we give thee humble thanks, for preserving us from the dangers of the past night; gratefully we acknowledge our dependence upon thee, for all the necessaries, comforts, and blessings of our lives,—for all the means of our well-being here, and of our everlasting happiness hereafter.

Give us leave this day, to put ourselves into thy powerful protection, and bestow upon us grace, that with an humble confidence we may depend upon thy providence, thy guidance, and thy blessing. And may the same gracious God that preserved us from dangers, refreshed us with sleep, and awakened us this morning, with souls sensible of these mercies, guard us this day from all evil and mischief, and all assaults of our spiritual enemies.

And seeing all men's labours are in vain without thy blessing, we entreat thee to prosper every one of us in our several places and callings, give us grace thankfully to accept, and soberly to use whatever we shall this day receive at thy hands; that owning thee for our benefactor, and making use of thy gifts according to thy wise designs, we

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may continue to be partakers of thy favour and blessing: enable us to be innocent and harmless in our conversation, dealing with others as we would desire to be dealt with, seeking the prosperity of all about us, and desirous of the good of all people.

Continue, O Lord, thy Gospel among us, and prosper thy Church planted in our land. Bless the Queen, and all in authority, that true religion and justice may be maintained and encouraged in these realms. Protect all that travel by sea or land, all orphans and widows, and all those who suffer wrongfully. Give health and strength to the sick and weak, and joy and comfort to the sorrowful and afflicted.

Remember not, Lord, our iniquities, nor the iniquities of our forefathers, but spare us, good Lord, and have patience with us, if, perhaps, we may at the last bring forth fruits worthy of thy long-suffering and patience. And now we commend ourselves, our prayers, and all belonging to us, to thee our Creator and Redeemer, believing that thou orderest all things for thy honour, and for the good of those that depend upon thee: the same blessing we ask for our friends, our relations, all those from whom we have received kindness, and all those that desire our prayers, requesting those mercies for them, that we would ourselves desire, were we in their condition.

These, and all other blessings, which thou knowest better to give than we to ask, vouchsafe

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to give us for the worthiness of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name and words we sum up our wants and petitions. "Our Father," &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

REV. E. BICKERSTETH.

O Thou who art the God of all the families of the earth, who didst favourably notice Abraham's commanding his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord, be thou present with us now, and enable us by thy Holy Spirit, and through thy Son's intercession, to worship thee in spirit and in truth.

Gracious Lord, we confess, that, in the day that is past, by vain thoughts, by idle words, by sinful indulgences, we have grieved thy Spirit, and incurred thy displeasure. Our only refuge is in thy promised mercy in Christ Jesus; we cast ourselves wholly on that mercy, fixing our hopes on our Saviour's cross; we confess our guilt, and entreat that the blood of Christ may cleanse us from all sin.

Give us, we beseech thee, the comfortable assurance that our sins are forgiven. Plentifully impart to us the gifts of the Spirit, that we may bring forth love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, forbearance, and temperance. Grant that we may so copy the example of our Saviour, that we

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may be the epistles of Christ, known and read of all men, and bear clear evidence of our own salvation. Teach us so to live, that we may glorify thee. O that all now kneeling together may pass from death to life, and love and serve thee unfeignedly. Be present with us in our more retired devotions; praying to our Father which is in secret, may we find his presence and blessing ever near us.

Bless, O Lord, all who are near and dear to us. Many beloved relatives and friends are now absent from us, but thou art with them, and all their wants are known to thee. Give them thy grace, ever guide them here by thy counsel, and may none of them be wanting in thy heavenly kingdom. We pray for the Queen, and all in authority; Lord, may their councils be ordered by thee. Give, we beseech thee, to all ministers of Jesus Christ every where, true knowledge and understanding of thy word, and may they set it forth in their lives accordingly. Make them wise to win souls. Lord, call forth and send out many faithful labourers to the work of the ministry, and cause the Gentiles to come unto thee, and the distant isles to seek thy light.

Thanks be unto thee, holy Lord God, for all thy goodness towards us: how multiplied are thy mercies, how excellent thy loving-kindness! We bless thee, for thy long-suffering towards us, for the infinite mercy of redeeming love, for the knowledge of salvation, and light of thy truth,

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for protection from every danger during the night, and provision for all our wants by day. Accept these our prayers and praises, which we offer up in and through Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

BISHOP ANDREWS.

O God, we are ashamed to lift up our faces unto thee, for our iniquities are increased, and our trespass grown up unto heaven. Our sins are more in number than the sand of the sea, and there is no rest in our souls, because we have provoked our God to wrath, by doing evil in his sight, refusing his will, and departing from his commandments.

Now, therefore, we bow our knees, and humbly implore thy mercy. Good Lord, shew forth thy infinite loving-kindness unto thy unworthy servants; so shalt thou save us from destruction, so shall we sing of thy glory and honour all the day long. Help us and deliver us, O God of our salvation, for thy name's sake. Impart to us thy grace, that we may add to our faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, that so, not forgetting that we are cleansed from our former sins, we may be fruitful in good works, and give all diligence to make our calling and election sure. Let us

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pray in the peace of the Lord, for that peace which the world cannot give, which cometh from above for the comfort and salvation of our souls. Let us also beg of thee, O God, peace for all mankind, especially for the good agreement and godly union of Christians with one another; for the firm establishment and safety of the Christian Church; and we implore thy divine blessing on those that minister in holy things, and on all congregations that dwell under their ministry.

We commend ourselves, our friends, and all that we possess, unto thee, our Lord and Saviour, entreating for quiet and comfortable times, kindly seasons, and healthful weather; that thou wouldst guide and direct all travellers by land and water; sustain the sick, listen to the oppressed, release the imprisoned, and console the afflicted and dejected; sanctifying all, and, by means best suited to thy wisdom, giving a happy conclusion to their respective sufferings.

Humbly and heartily we praise thee, O most gracious Lord, for giving us life and reason; for having nourished, preserved, directed, and governed us; for every mercy we have received; for every undertaking in which thou hast prospered us; for having enabled us to perform any good action; for the kindness of never-to-be-forgotten friends and affection of relatives; for all the enjoyments of this life, and thy promises, and our assured hope, of a better life to come. For all these, and every other instance of thy goodness, we bless

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and adore thee this day, and every day of our lives. What shall we render unto the Lord for all the benefits he hath done? We will magnify thee, we will worship thee, we will serve thee, we will love and entirely devote ourselves to the Almighty Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in the unity of the blessed Trinity for evermore. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

R. NELSON.

Most great and glorious Lord God! we desire to prostrate ourselves, in all humiliation, before thy divine majesty, under a deep sense of our own unworthiness. We have, O Lord, abused thy gifts and blessings, despised thy goodness, neglected thy service, preferring our passions to thy commands. We have neither believed thee, nor loved thee, nor obeyed thee as we ought. O most gracious and merciful Lord God, have compassion upon us; accept our imperfect repentance, and send the spirit of adoption into our hearts, to instil true filial affections, that we may truly love thee as our Father, be owned by thee as children, and become, at the last, heirs of salvation.

O Lord, let thy unwearied tenderness towards us make our love be tender and unwearied towards one another, zealous to promote and

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preserve both temporal and eternal happiness, ready to succour and relieve, to comfort, rescue, and pray for all whom thy love or their own miseries recommend to our Christian charity. Make us like unto thee in peaceableness, gentleness, long-suffering; let us live ever watching and praying, or profitably employed, that we may leave no room, if possible, for any unclean spirit to enter into our souls and tempt us.

Lord, make us contented and thankful, well pleased with the portion thy wise Providence has allotted us in this world, and acquiescing in thy choice, as best for us. Let the world never hold the chief place in our affections; we desire to withdraw our hearts from vanity and fix them upon thee.

Shew mercy to the whole world, by making the Gospel glorified throughout all the earth: May it be proclaimed to heathens and infidels, and obeyed by all who are called Christians. Multiply thy blessings upon the Royal family, and all persons in exalted stations, enabling them to become signal instruments of thy glory and the public good. Be gracious to all the ministers of thy Gospel, that they may diligently watch over and instruct those souls committed to their care. Visit in thy mercy all the children of affliction, lightening their burdens, relieving their griefs, both of mind and body, and endowing them with patience and submission to thy divine will. Bless all our relatives and friends; let them first seek

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the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and then let all other things be added unto them.

Adored be thy goodness for all the mercies, spiritual and temporal, bestowed upon us; if we have escaped any sin, it was by thy restraining grace; if we have avoided any danger, it was thy hand directed us, and to thy holy name be the glory. Preserve and defend us this night, refresh our bodies with such rest that in the morning we may rise better disposed for thy service; and now let us lie down with holy thoughts: and when we awake, let us be still with thee, O Father, Son, and blessed Spirit, three persons in one God. Amen.

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SECOND WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

BISHOP ANDREWS.

Through the tender mercy of our God, the day spring from on high hath visited us; glory be to thee, O Lord, who didst, as on this day, create the light and command it to shine upon the face of the deep. How glorious is that light which affects our senses,—the rays of the sun, the flame of fire, the day divided from the night, the evening and the morning! How much more glorious is that light which shines upon our minds by the revelations of the prophets, and the sweet solace of Holy Scriptures. For this light which no darkness overspreads, this sun which never goes down, blessed be thy name, O Father, God of peace; thou who didst on this day raise from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, raise us up also from dead works unto repentance and newness of life.

O let the multitude of thy mercies triumph over the multitude of our sins, and for the sake of the blood of the covenant shed for the remission of sins, be merciful to us miserable sinners: for that name's sake, besides which there is none other

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whereby we can be saved, have mercy upon us: grant us grace to worship thee, to reverence thy holiness, to serve thee with the devotion of the heart and praises of the lips, in the public assemblies of thy solemn worship that meet this day. Merciful Lord, look graciously upon all mankind; remember those who lie under any sort of trouble, and afford them succour and protection; strengthen the congregation of thine anointed, and let the multitude of them be of one heart and one soul, and may those who minister at thy altar be fitted by thy grace for their work.

O thou who requirest us to love them that love us, pour out thy blessings upon all our friends and benefactors; behold with thy favour every person belonging to this family; let thy peace rest upon them; extend especially thy grace to all young children, that with their age and station they may increase in wisdom and virtue, and favour with God and man. Finally, O Lord, we commit to thy protection our souls and bodies, our minds and thoughts, our prayers and desires, our kindred and friends, our enemies, countrymen, and fellow creatures.

Blessed be the glory of the Lord for his greatness, eternity, providence, holiness, wisdom, and truth; but, above all, for the unutterable riches of his abundant grace and love in Christ Jesus, our Redeemer, in whose words we now unite, saying, "Our Father," &c.

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SUNDAY EVENING.

REV. E. BICKERSTETH.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and art to come! Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; we approach thee, therefore, only in the name of Jesus Christ, confessing how defective and defiled are all our services; bewailing and acknowledging that our unworthy thanksgivings fall utterly short of thy great goodness to us. All we do is polluted and sinful; O forgive us the sins of our solemn duties, and let that great High Priest, who is entered into the heavens bearing the iniquities of our holy things, plead for us in thy sight.

And grant, most merciful Lord, that it may not be in vain such distinguished privileges as we enjoy are bestowed upon us. The seed of the word has this day been sown in our hearts; let it not be plucked away by Satan, lost through temptation, or choked with the cares of this life; but having heard it, and received it, incline us to keep it, and do thou cause it to bring forth fruit an hundred fold. Grant that our lives may exhibit whose we are, and whom we ought to serve: remembering, that if we know our Lord's will and do it not, we shall justly have the severer punishment. We feel that we have now again to run the race set before us—we have again to enter

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into the contest with our spiritual enemies; teach us ever to look unto Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith.

We pray for all those who have this day assembled before thee, and heard the word of salvation. Grant unto them the same mercies we beg for ourselves. Let thy ministers be abundantly strengthened for thy work both in body and soul. Remember in mercy those who by thy special providence have been kept from thy house, and let them receive a special supply of thy grace. Grant that those who have wilfully or ignorantly absented themselves from public worship may have their eyes opened to see, and their hearts awakened to feel their guilt and danger, and learn to flee from the wrath to come. O hasten the time when thy house shall be a house of prayer for all nations, and the whole world shall worship in thy courts.

Thanks be to God for all the privileges of the past Sabbath. Blessed be thy name that we were permitted to hear thy word, to join thy people in prayer and praise, and to enjoy so plentifully the means of grace. Blessed be God, if the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, or his holy word, be more understood or valued by us. Our cup runneth over with mercies. Lord, if, notwithstanding our infirmities, thy Sabbaths here below are so pleasant, how should we thank thee for the prospect of an eternal Sabbath, where we shall serve thee without wandering thoughts, without

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weariness, without distraction. O grant that none of those who have met in thy house this day may be wanting in thy house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

DR DODDRIDGE.

O thou ever blessed fountain of natural and spiritual life, we thank thee that we live to know the pleasures and exercises of a religious life; we bless thee that thou hast infused into us thy vital breath; but it is our most earnest desire that we may not only live, but grow—grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May we be continually seeking after an increasing love to thee our God and Father, an unreserved resignation to thy divine will, and an extensive benevolence to our fellow creatures! May we grow in patience and fortitude, in humility and zeal, in spirituality and a heavenly disposition, that whether we live or die, it may be for the glory of our Lord. Draw on our souls by the influences of thy gracious Spirit, O heavenly Father!

Our souls are utterly confounded when we think how far we are from thy perfection; words can never describe the heinousness of our offences;

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but, Lord, pity and help us in our endeavours to withstand sin; forgetting the things that are behind, may we press forward to those that are before.

Give us, O Lord, to know the station in which thou hast fixed us, and steadily to pursue the duties of it: deliver us from the excessive cares of this world, which would so engross our time and our thoughts, that the one thing needful should be forgotten; while others are laying up treasures on earth, may we be rich towards God. May we never be too busy to attend to the great affairs of our souls, nor be so engrossed with the concerns of time, as to neglect the interests of eternity; passing through earth with our hearts and hopes set upon heaven, may we feel the attractive influence stronger as we approach the nearer to that desirable centre.

O God, who hast raised our faculties from the burial of sleep, give us this day renewed life; may we shew ourselves thoroughly awakened from the sleep of sloth and darkness of sin, our hearts enlivened and refreshed through the multitude of thy blessings.

We bless thee, O God, for the souls thou hast created in us — the bodies thou hast given us — the royal bounty which provides for the daily support of mankind in general, and us in particular We thank thee for all our social comforts— for kind friends and beloved relatives — for that reviving hope of salvation which we see through faith. And now, Lord, what more have we to

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do but to commit ourselves in every way unto thee; do thou choose our inheritance, and order all our affairs by thy wisdom and mercy, till all is accomplished in peace and joy, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

PRACTICE OF PIETY.

Eternal God, and most gracious Father, we, thine unworthy servants here assembled, do cast ourselves before the throne of thy grace, acknowledging our having transgressed thy commandments in thought, word, and deed; our hearts are full of love of the world, and our own pleasures; void of faith, love, patience, and every spiritual grace, and therefore might expect nothing but the cursed effects of wrath and condemnation. Good Father, for thy dear Son's sake, in whom thou art well pleased, have mercy upon us, and free us from the shame and judgment due unto our offences. Let us feel the power of Christ's death killing sin in our mortal bodies, and the virtue of his resurrection raising up our souls to renewed life. Convert our hearts, subdue our affections, regenerate our minds, and purify our natures, and suffer us not to be drowned in the stream of those vices and pleasures whereby thousands are carried headlong to destruction; and grant, good Father,

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the continuance of health, peace, maintenance, and all other outward things, so far as thy divine wisdom shall think meet and necessary for every one of us. And here, O Lord, according to our bounden duty, we confess that thou hast been exceedingly merciful to us in all things of this life, but infinitely more so in the things of a better life; and therefore we do here, from our hearts, render most humble and sincere thanks for all thy blessings and benefits betowed upon our souls and bodies, and to thee we ascribe all honour, glory, and praise for them.

Good Lord, forgive us the sins this day committed against thy divine majesty and our brethren, and for Christ's sake be reconciled to us for them. We entreat thee also for the same thine infinite mercy to defend us this night from all evils and perils which for our sins might justly fall upon us; whilst we sleep, do thou, O Father, watch over us thy children, guarding us from dangers, that sleeping with thee, we may be wakened by thee, and so refreshed by moderate repose, we may be fitter to set forth thy glory in the conscionable duties of our callings. Be merciful, likewise, to thy whole Church, all our Christian brethren and sisters that suffer, and all those of mankind in general that are in affliction and misery. In health and prosperity make us mindful of sickness, and of the evil day, that those things may not overtake us as a snare, but that we may in a good measure be found prepared. And now, O

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Lord, most holy and just, we confess that there is no cause why thou, who art so much displeased with sin, shouldst hear the prayer of sinners, but for his sake only who suffered for sin, and sinned not; in the only mediation, therefore, of thine eternal Son Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, we humbly beg these and all other graces which thou knowest to be needful for us, shutting up our imperfect requests in that most holy prayer which Christ himself taught us to say unto thee,—"Our Father," &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

REV. A. TOPLADY.

Almighty Father, source of every good and fountain of every blessing, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in Him our God and Father, give us the Spirit of adoption, and enable us to cry, Abba, Father. Help us to come and pour out our hearts before thee with the same confidence and affection, as children go with before an earthly parent. Enable us to repose ourselves on thy love; to tell thee all our desires, and all our sorrows; and from the heart to thank thee for all thy goodness to us.

Great and abundant cause have we to bless our God for all that he is in himself, and for all that he is to us. Thy mercies are new every morning. We thank thee that we meet together

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in peace and safety. Thou hast been our safety and our refuge; let, then, the outgoings of the morning and of the evening praise thee. We thank thee more especially for all the mercies of redemption. In the gospel of Christ, we have seen that mercy and truth meet together, and righteousness and peace kiss one another. Thus can even we rejoice in thy power and justice, thy holiness, mercy, and love. Blessed be thou, the just God and Saviour.

O how unworthy we are of the least of thy mercies! We are all sinful and guilty; we have turned every one to his own way: from our youth up even until now we have been in a great trespass. We dare not justify ourselves in thy sight, for if we should attempt it, our own mouths would condemn us, having done many things for which our consciences justly accuse us. All our righteousness is defiled; all our prayers and services are polluted.

Lord God of our salvation, it is thy gracious promise, on which our souls rely, that if we confess our sins, thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We now confess our sins, and plead thy justice, for Jesus bore our sins in his own body on the tree. We plead thy faithfulness according to thy many precious promises. Let us now by faith obtain them.

Cleanse, we beseech thee, the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that

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we may perfectly love, and worthily magnify thy holy name. Strengthen us for the duties of this day. Suffer us not to be tempted above what we are able to bear; but with every temptation make a way to escape, and incline us to walk in that way. Set a watch before our mouths, that we offend not with the tongue; may we always speak that which is good, that it may minister grace to the hearers. Increase our faith, enliven our hope, and enlarge our charity, that we may perfectly serve thee, and in all things glorify thy name.

We pray for all our own absent relatives and friends, give them prosperity of body and soul; grant that grace and peace may be multiplied to all those that call on the name of the Lord Jesus. Seek and save the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Let the light of thy church break forth on all around: increase among the people of this nation the number of those who love and serve thee; bless our rulers, guide our statesmen, teach thy ministers, and prosper thy people. May it be said of us, "Happy is that people whose God is the Lord." These prayers we offer in the name and through the mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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TUESDAY EVEVING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Almighty God, we adore thy mercy and wisdom in that thou dost pity our infirmities, instruct our ignorances, pass by thousands of our follies, invitest us to repentance, and offerest pardon unto us because we need it, and because thou delightest in shewing mercy. O cause that abundant mercy which thou hast graciously shewed us may not be offered in vain, but may redeem our lost souls and recover thy own inheritance, and sanctify thy portion, the heart of thy servants and all our faculties.

Blessed Jesus, thou becamest a little lower than the angels, but thou didst make us greater, doing that for us which thou didst not do for them. For them thou didst not pay one drop of blood, thou didst not endure one stripe to recover the fallen angels; thou didst not give one groan to snatch the accursed spirits from their fearful prisons, but thou didst empty all thy veins for us, to redeem us from innumerable sins which had provoked thy indignation against us. O God, let such transcendent love be impressed upon thy servants, that it may work in us a sorrow for our sins and a perfect hatred of them, a watchfulness against temptations, strict and holy resolutions, productive of our duty. O let us never fall from

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sin to sin, nor persevere in any, nor love any thing which thou hatest, but give us thy Holy Spirit to conduct and rule us for ever, and make us obedient to thy good Spirit, never to resist, never to grieve, never to quench it. Keep us, O Lord, by thy good power, from falling into presumptuous sins, lest they get dominion over us. Let us never despair of thy mercies by reason of our sins, nor neglect our repentance by reason of thy infinite loving kindness; but let thy goodness bring us and all sinners to repentance, thy mercies give us pardon, thy Holy Spirit give us perseverance, and thy infinite favour bring us to glory.

Grant that we may never sleep in sin or death eternal, but may have our part of the first resurrection, and that the second death may not prevail against us.

Thou who hast compassion on all men, and relievest the necessities of all that call to thee for help, hear the prayers of thy servants who are unworthy to ask for themselves, yet in humility and through our blessed Intercessor pray for others: Let thy mercy descend upon the whole Church, preserve her in truth and peace, in unity and safety, in all storms, and against all temptations and enemies, that she, offering the never ceasing sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, may advance the glory and honour of her Lord.

May the hand of thy blessing be upon our beloved friends and benefactors, night and day:

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support them in all necessities, strengthen them in all temptations, comfort them in all sorrows; and in all changes, may they continue to be thy servants.

Grant unto us and all true Christians, to have faith in our Lord, a contempt of the world, a longing desire after heaven, an holy life and a blessed death; that when we appear before the seat of judgment, we may not be confounded, but may stand upright in the congregation of the saints, acquitted by the death of Christ, justified by his resurrection, pardoned by his sentence, saved by his mercy, that we may rejoice in his salvation, and sing thy praises for evermore. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

REV. H. VENN.

O thou, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast so loved the world as to give thy only begotten Son, to the end that all who believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life, mercifully regard us miserable sinners. Thou seest how slow we are to believe the record that is given of thy Son. Though we read of his glory, how little does it affect us! Though he has a name which is above every name in heaven and earth, how little affiance do we feel in him, or consolation from all that he hath done and suffered.

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Have compassion on us, O Lord, and help us. Give us what thou hast most graciously promised, the Spirit of truth to open our understandings that we may understand the things which are spoken of thy Son in the Scriptures. O give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him — of his person and office — of his love and power towards all that bear his name and follow him; that so we may abound in clear, magnificent, and endearing thoughts of Christ Jesus the Lord; that he may be no less precious to us than he was to the glorious company of the Apostles, and noble army of Martyrs. Thou, O Lord, hast declared that thy Son shall be exalted and extolled, and shall be very high. Help us, we beseech thee, to give him this honour day by day more perfectly. Enable us to comprehend with all saints the immeasureable extent of his love, the breadth and length, the height and depth thereof.

We beg this of thee, O God, in order that our affections may be raised up to heaven, where Christ sitteth on thy right hand; that we may grow more dead to the world, and walk more becoming our Christian character; that we may be enriched as much as possible with light and grace, joy and peace, in this present life; and so shew forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into marvellous light. We beseech thee that the excellency of our knowledge of Christ may be evidenced to others, by our adding

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day by day to our faith a noble Christian courage, in defence of his truth, honour, and government; by a constant victory over corrupt affections, by a moderate use of all lawful comforts, by a meek and quiet spirit under all our trials, and by resignation to the will of our heavenly Father.

Grant, O Lord, that the knowledge of the redemption that is in Jesus may work effectually this day upon our hearts. Let the Saviour's love to us be the pattern of ours to all that are round about us; let it make us zealous to embrace all opportunities of ministering to the happiness of one another. If we cannot assist the needy by our alms, or protect the oppressed by our power, O let us diligently exercise love, in abstaining from all uncharitableness of speech, from all frowardness and evil tempers; make us kind and tender-hearted, forbearing, and forgiving all, as thou, for Christ's sake, hast forgiven us. Thou, O God, that makest men to be of one mind that dwell together, inspire us with a spirit of concord, and harmonize all our naturally selfish tempers. Let this benefit, at least, be found from our family devotion, that we agree better together, and live more in peace, and love, and quietness, than those who call not upon thee, who lie down and rise up like the herd in the stall.

Comfort and protect continually all our near relatives and dear friends. Sanctify to them their present circumstances, whatever they may be; may they consider the things of the Spirit, and

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never be deluded by the things of time and sense. Be their Guide through life, and at death give them admission into thy kingdom and glory.

Promote, O God, the welfare of this our country. Let thy servant, our most gracious sovereign, be continually guided by thy counsel, and reign over us in righteousness. Visit and relieve all who are distressed or oppressed. Regard their tears, hear their sighs; give them to see their sin in their suffering, to humble themselves under thy hand, and find that it is good for them to have been afflicted. Bless our enemies, do good to them that hate us, and ever enable us to return good for evil.

Accept our praises for our continued preservation by thy goodness, which has first brought us into being—for sleep upon our beds—for the return of day after the shades of darkness—for the use of our reason, the comfort of this opportunity of worshipping thy name—above all, for the light of life, the Sun of Righteousness, for whom we bless thy name, and in whom we commend ourselves and all our services to thee, and to whom, with thyself and the Holy Ghost, one God over all, be all honour, praise, love, and obedience, for evermore. Amen.

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WEDNESDAY EVENING.

R. BAXTER.

O Eternal God, infinitely great, wise, and good, our reconciled Father in Christ Jesus, reject us not, vile and miserable sinners, who, constrained by our necessities, and invited by thy goodness, cast down ourselves in the humble confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of thy mercies, and earnestly beg thy farther grace.

We were born with corrupted sinful natures, which, from our childhood, we have increased by actual sin; and though thy great mercy has given us a sufficient Saviour, and a covenant of grace, and betimes engaged us to thee in that covenant by our baptismal vow; and though thou hast given us the great mercy of the Gospel, and Christian education, yet did we sinfully forget our Creator, unthankfully neglect our Redeemer, and rebelliously resist the Holy Ghost.

But, O thou merciful Father of Spirits, have mercy upon us—forgive our great and manifold sins. Wo to us that ever we were born, if thou deal with us as we deserve. How quickly then shall we be in hell, past all remedy, in endless pains and desperation, where we shall have time to lament that sin in vain, which we would not forsake in the day of our visitation.

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But we appeal, from the justness of thy law of innocency, to the blood and merits of Jesus, our Redeemer, and to thy law and covenant of grace, which, for his propitiation, freely pardoneth all penitent believers. We are sinners, but he is righteous, and hath satisfied for our sins; we are worthy of misery, but he is worthy, that for his sake our sins should be forgiven. O wash us in his blood; justify, adopt, and accept us in him. Take possession of our souls by that Spirit which is the advocate and witness of Christ, and which may dwell in us as a principle of spiritual life, and may form us fully to thy will and image, and overcome in us the world, the flesh, and the devil, and be our seal, and pledge, and earnest, and first fruits, of everlasting life. Let his quickening virtue heal our deadness, and make us lively and strong for thee. Let his illuminating virtue heal our ignorance, error, and unbelief, and fill our minds with faith and wisdom. Let his converting, sanctifying virtue kill in us the love of the pleasures, honours, and riches of this world, and give us a settled hatred of sin, and fill our hearts with a fervent love to thee, thy word, thy ways, and servants, and to all men in their several capacities, and cause us to delight our souls in thee. We beseech thee to keep us from henceforth in all holiness, love, and peace, and in our duties to one another; and let thy blessing be on all our souls and bodies, and on our labours and affairs; and let not thy judgments

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seize upon us, but bring us ever onwards on our way rejoicing.

We thank thee for all the mercies of this day. We have had another day's time of repentance to prepare for our last day, but, alas! how little good have we got done! Forgive all our sins of omission and commission, and protect us this night from all the evils we deserve.

Refresh us with safety, rest, and sleep, and let our meditations of thee be sweet, and thy comforts still delight our souls. Prepare us for the mercies and duties of the day following, and teach us to live in thy service and praise, that we may live with thee for evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

PRACTICE OF PIETY.

Most mighty and glorious God, full of incomprehensible power and majesty; look down from heaven upon us thine unworthy servants, now prostrate at the footstool of thy grace. Look upon us, O Father, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy beloved Son, in whom only thou art well pleased: for of ourselves we are unworthy to appear in thy presence, or to speak with our unclean lips unto thee, Most Holy. Thou knowest that in sin we were born, and that ever since, we have lived in iniquity, so that we have broken all

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thy holy commandments, by sinful thoughts, evil words, and wicked works, omitting many of those duties which thou requirest for thy service, and committing many of those vices which thou hast forbidden.

For these our sins, O Lord, we stand here guilty of thy curse, with all the miseries of this life, and everlasting torments of hell fire when this life is ended; but we entreat thee, O Lord, by the multitude of thy mercies, and in confidence in Christ's merits, that thou wouldst wash away our transgressions with his precious blood. And seeing he hath borne the curse due unto us, O deliver us from our sins, and the judgments belonging unto them; bury them in the burial of Christ, that they may never have power to rise against us. And we beseech thee, good Lord, not only to wash away our sins with the blood of thine immaculate Lamb, but also to wash away the natural corruption of our hearts, so that we may, with more freedom and liberty of mind and will, serve thee in righteousness and holiness this day. Whilst it is thy blessed will and pleasure that we may continue to spend the small remainder and remnant of the day appointed for us to live in this vale of sin and misery, so teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. And as thou dost add days to our lives, so add, good Lord, repentance and amendment to our days; to this end, give unto us a supply of those graces which thou knowest to be

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wanting in us, and necessary for us; with an increase of all those good gifts which thou hast already bestowed upon us; that so we may be the better enabled to lead such godly lives, as may glorify thy name, shew forth a good example unto others, and our own souls may more cheerfully feed on the peace of a good conscience, and be fully replenished with the joy of the Holy Ghost.

And now, we offer up unto thee, O Lord, our most hearty thanks for all the blessings which of thy goodness thou hast bestowed upon us; that thou hast bought us with the blood of thy only Son, and redeemed us from the torments of hell, and thrall of Satan; that thou hast given us so large a time to repent, together with the means of repentance. We thank thee, likewise, for our life, health, food, raiment, peace, prosperity, and plenty; and that thou hast preserved us through the past night from all perils of body and soul, and brought us safely to the beginning of this day. As thou hast now awakened our bodies from sleep, so also awaken our souls from sin and carnal security; and as thou hast caused the light of day to shine in our eyes, so cause the light of thy Spirit to illuminate our hearts; that as children of the light we may endeavour to walk in holy obedience in all our thoughts, words, and ways: and thus, good Lord, bless all which we shall undertake this day, and suffer not the evil one, nor any of our enemies, to do us any harm.

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We pray unto thee, O Father, not for ourselves alone, but beseech thee to be merciful to thy whole Church and chosen people, wheresoever they dwell upon earth. Give thy gospel a free and joyful course through the world for the conversion of those who belong to thy kingdom. Bless and direct our sovereign, and all the governors, ministers, and magistrates of this land. Be merciful unto all our brethren, especially such as be sick and comfortless in body or mind. These, and all other graces, which thou knowest to be needful and necessary for us this day and evermore, we humbly crave at thy hands; giving thee thy glory in that form of prayer which Christ himself has taught us. "Our Father," &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O Almighty God, who dwellest in light inaccessible, before whom the greatest mountains are like the dust of the balance; we confess to thee, O Lord, Father of heaven and earth, all those sins which we have committed openly before the world, and secretly in thy presence only; for thou knowest all things, and nothing is hid from thy righteous eyes. Thou art the God of mercy and pity, and thou wouldst have all whom thou hast created to be saved; we fly, therefore, unto thee, who art the lover and saviour of all the

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souls of the faithful. Have pity upon us, who have many times imbittered and grieved thy Holy Spirit, to the joy of our enemies, and the sad ruin of our own souls.

We know, O God, and tremble at the awful remembrance, that all our sins shall be placed before our faces at the day of thy dreadful appearance. O look upon us with a tender pity; let not the angel of wrath snatch our precious souls from thy beatific presence; take not thy Spirit from us; take not our lives from us while our souls are unprepared and unpardoned, lest thou forget to be gracious, and shut up thy loving-kindness in displeasure.

Blessed Saviour, thou gavest thy life to redeem us from death; thou art the judge of those actions for which thou wert a sacrifice. O suffer us not to fall under thine indignation; destroy the whole body of sin in us; bring our understandings into the obedience of God, our affections under the dominion of reason, our reason into a perfect subordination of thy Holy Spirit, that we may love and serve thee, and by repentance and charity may enter into thy favour, and dwell there by a holy perseverance all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Do thou open our eyes, that we may see our own vilenesses and forsake them, and our foolish errors, that we may amend them, and all our infirmities, that we may watch against them. Cause us to return unto our duty with greater

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fervour and devotion, than ever we have sinned against thee with pleasure and delight; and as we have dishonoured thee by our unworthiness, so grant that we may ever hereafter glorify thy name; watching strictly against our sins, hating them infinitely, and utterly forsaking them. O grant that we may every day renew our repentance and vows of a better life, and make us to do every day what is our duty; so imprinting a holy religion in our minds, that we may confess our sins with a real and humble sorrow, beg for pardon because we desire it, ask for thy help because we will make use of it, and number our sins because we will leave them; not resting in the forms, but living in the power of godliness.

O blessed God, in mercy remember thine inheritance, and forget not the congregation of the poor for ever. Give to my relations, friends, and benefactors, pardon and support, comfort in all their sorrows, strength in all temptations, and may they feel thy mercies here, and partake of thy glories hereafter. Be thou a star and guide to them that travel by land or sea, the confidence and comfort of them that are in storms and shipwrecks; give cheerfulness to every sad heart, spiritual strength to them that are afflicted. Give liberty to prisoners, and put a period to the iniquity and the miseries of all mankind. This we entreat through the mediation of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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FRIDAY MORNING.

NATHANAEL SPINCKES.

Most holy and glorious Lord God, we beseech thee not to deal with us according to our heinous, repeated, and deliberate offences, in sorrow and contrition for which we now apply unto thee, entreating, for thy mercies' sake in Christ Jesus, to be forgiven. Reject us not, O Lord, in our distress, but own us for thy children by adoption and grace, and save us from the vengeance due to our manifold iniquities, and wash away with our Saviour's blood the follies of childhood, the extravagancies of youth, and the greater transgressions of riper age. Spare us, good Lord, and of thy great goodness command deliverance for us; thou knowest our frame, that we are but dust: may it therefore please thee to extend thy pity unto us miserable sinners, who desire to acknowledge our unworthiness, and truly to repent of our faults; Lord help us so to repent in this world, that we may not be condemned with impenitent unbelievers in the world to come.

Vouchsafe unto us such a right notion and esteem of all earthly privileges and enjoyments, that we may never be brought under the power of any of them, but may constantly use the portion conferred upon us with temperance, and sobriety, and charity, during the time they are

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continued unto us, and with a ready disposition to part with them, whensoever thou shalt see fit to strip us of the whole, or any part of them. Incline our hearts to a constant solicitude for another life, and a care to lay up for ourselves treasure in heaven, by a great improvement of whatever we enjoy here below. Grant that we may never be high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in thee, the living God, who gives us all things richly to enjoy. Make us truly sensible how impossible it is to serve both God and Mammon, and that if we immoderately love the world, and the things in it, this is a certain sign that the love of God is not in us. Make us ever mindful of our duty to our neighbours, loving them as ourselves, and doing to all as we would they should do unto us; obedient to our governors, whether spiritual or temporal, loving and useful and obliging to our equals, tender and compassionate to our inferiors; just to all, and charitable and assistant to those in need. Put us upon diligent watch over ourselves, that we indulge no unholy passion or evil imagination; but purifying our hearts from all corruptions, may we endeavour to be holy, even as thou art holy.

We praise thee for the comforts of this life, entreating the continuance of such bounties as may be conducive to our spiritual welfare, and thy glory; take all our beloved friends and relatives under thy gracious protection, administering to them all things pertaining to godliness; we

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desire thy blessing upon them, and ourselves, as the most valuable portion for an inheritance. And now, Lord, let such a sense of thy benefits be fixed on our minds, that all the powers of our souls may be exerted to set forth thy glory, our unfeigned gratitude shewing itself not only in the praises of our lips, but also by the holiness and uprightness of our conversation. Make us to continue in thy fear all the day long, and may we perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name. Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be ascribed unto our God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us; we do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings, and the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, after thy great goodness, according to the multitude of thy mercies do away our offences; wash us thoroughly

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from our wickedness, and cleanse us from our sins; spare all those who confess their sins unto thee, that they whose consciences by sin are accused, by thy merciful pardon may be absolved; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name.

And thou, O God, who art the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us thy mercy, that thou being our ruler and our guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal. And because through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that we may withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds follow thee, the only God; and in keeping thy commandments, we may please thee both in will and deed.

O Lord, who hast prepared for them that love thee, such good things as pass man's understanding, pour into our hearts such love towards thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire or deserve. And thou who hast taught us that all our doings, without charity, are nothing worth, send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee.

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Grant us, O Lord, so perfectly and without all doubt to believe in thy Son Jesus Christ, that our faith in thy sight may never be reproved; that being established in the truth of the holy gospel, and knowing our Saviour Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, and following the steps of thy holy apostles, we may steadfastly walk in the path that leadeth to eternal life, so that we who know thee now by faith, may, after this life, have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead.

Grant that our hearts being mortified from all worldly and carnal delights, and inordinate love of riches, we may in all things obey thy blessed will, and continue Christ's faithful servants to our lives' end. And since thou hast given unto us thy only begotten Son, to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life, give us grace most thankfully to receive this thine inestimable benefit, and daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life.

We commit ourselves, O Lord, this night to thy gracious protection; and thou who seest we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves, keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul.

Let thy continual pity defend thy Church, and because it cannot continue in safety without thy

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succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness. Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before thee for all estates of men in thy Church, that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry, may truly and godly serve thee.

We beseech thee, O Lord, mercifully to incline thine ears to our petitions; and grant that those things we have faithfully asked according to thy will, may effectually be obtained, to the relief of our necessities, and the setting forth of thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

KETTLEWELL.

O God of all grace and comfort, who shewest mercy on the unworthy, and art most bountifully pleased to fit and qualify them for thy grace, have pity upon our sinfulness; secure us from the bondage and power of our own corrupt natures, by thy greater power; from that which is the shame and sorrow of our life past. We turn unto thee with contrite hearts, unfeignedly desiring to retain no more of our former offences; and we earnestly pray to thee, Father of mercies, that, for Jesus Christ's sake, thou wouldst be pleased to accept this our repentance. We have no hope in ourselves, but only in thy mercy, nor any expectation

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in our own deservings, but only in thy blessed Son's infinite merits. Receive us, O Lord, according to the riches of thy mercy, and supply whatsoever is wanting in us by the power of thy grace. Place us among the number of those who are truly contrite for all their evil ways, and whose repentance has prepared them for the free and full remission of all their offences by the merits of their Redeemer.

O holy Lord, keep us under such an holy fear as will make us careful not to trust in false ways, or to swerve from our duty, when we know it. Remove from us perplexing doubts; cause us to be firmly fixed and settled in our obedience to thy laws, and to give ourselves up cheerfully to thy service. Let not our hearts deceive us, O blessed Lord, in judging of ourselves; but keep us from pride and vain confidence, in setting too little by thy grace, and thinking too well of our own ways. May we never flatter ourselves into an evil security, becoming insensible of the great need we have of thy mercy. Oh, then, may we not be high-minded, but learn to fear. Help us, O gracious God, carefully to improve our remaining days, and to employ all the time we have to live in minding the true work and business of life. Habituate our hearts to humility and patience, temperance and self-denial, watching and prayer. Teach us to prize and set a great value upon all helps and opportunities of instruction and improvements in the way of godliness. Make us willing

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to do justice unto all with whom we are concerned, and ready to give unto all what is their due, even though we should thereby be left upon thy good providence. If want must be our share, grant, O good Lord, that the place of our wanting may be here in this world, where our wants will soon have an end; not hereafter in the next world, where they will know no end. Conversing as we do, in the midst of an evil and dangerous world, enable us to beware of sinful men, and, knowing that the days are evil, may we not needlessly throw away our quiet, but redeem the time. Grant unto us the skill and care, O merciful Lord, to be provident in all things, and walk circumspectly; in wisdom towards those that are without, that they may find nothing on which to lay hold but our love and zeal to thee, and a wise and faithful discharge of our duty. Lord, we thankfully acknowledge the bounty and goodness thou hast manifested towards us, by creating, sustaining, and protecting us all the days of our past lives, and offering unto us unworthy sinners the mercies of redeeming love. Touch our hearts with such affections of gratitude and humility, that we may never venture to undervalue thy blessings; and, loving thee, may we love our brethren also, shewing them all offices of kindness and charity, tenderness and forbearance towards their infirmities, praying for all men, whether Christian or heathen, that thou wilt put thy laws into their minds, and write them upon their hearts.

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Desiring, O gracious Father, the increase of thy power, glory, honour, and dominion upon the whole of the human race, we beseech thee to accept our petitions, through the merits and intercession of our merciful Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

KETTLEWELL.

O most gracious God, who daily multipliest upon us thy mercies, notwithstanding we every day renew our provocations, accept, we beseech thee, of our most humble and hearty thanks for thy unspeakable kindness towards us. Blessed be thy goodness, which has this day supplied us with food and necessaries; and has preserved us in health, the chiefest of all outward enjoyments; and has prospered the work of our hands, and lent us our friends, to be still a comfort and support to us. Adored be thy love and patience, which have allowed us one day more to amend our ways, and assisted us, by the suggestion of thy Spirit and thy gracious providences, to make up that resignation, humility, contentedness, chastity, sobriety, meekness, charity, and other virtues which are yet wanting in our souls. We desire to shew ourselves duly sensible of these endearing benefits, by learning to depend upon thy providence, which has been so watchful over us, and to be contented

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with thy orderings, which are so wisely fitted to our advantage, and applying all opportunities to the increase of that righteousness and holy living which thou requirest at our hands. We fain would do it, and are here sincerely resolved to endeavour, and thou hast promised thy aid to all those who labour in so good a work. Be it, then, O Lord, according to thy word, and enable us, by thy grace and Spirit, to perform our desires.

We are sensible, O God, how highly we have offended thee, although we stand thus indebted for all we have or hope to enjoy to thy free grace and bounty. How many ways have we dishonoured our profession, and revolted from the vows we made in baptism, by pride and envy, anger and discontent, and divers other iniquities, which then we promised to renounce! We are heartily sorry and ashamed for these and all our misdoings, and are fully resolved, by thy grace, to amend them. We unfeignedly repent of them, and, for Christ's sake, humbly beg to be forgiven, and that thy grace and holy Spirit may rid us of them for the time to come. Our full purpose is to endeavour after a thorough amendment, and thy promise is to help us therein.

Keep us under the defence and care of thy good providence this night; make our sleep safe and refreshing to us. Fit us for our great change, that it may not surprise us unawares, but that, having led holy lives, we may be happy in our deaths, and have comfort and well grounded hope in thee.

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Give all men grace to repent of their sins, and to become thy faithful servants. Let all Christians live to the laws of that religion which they profess. Especially bless these kingdoms wherein we live. Let our rulers govern with justice, and the people obey with cheerfulness. Make the rich and prosperous temperate in using, and charitable in distributing their substance; and enable the poor and afflicted to be patient and contented under their burdens. Cause us all to love as brethren, and to be pitiful and tender-hearted towards all men. Preserve our friends in their souls and bodies; forgive our enemies, and make them kindly affected towards us; and do whatsoever thou seest fitting for us all, for thy Son, our advocate and mediator, Jesus Christ, who taught us thus to pray,—"Our Father," &c.

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THIRD WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

MATTHEW HENRY.

We keep this day holy to the honour of thee, O God the Father Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth, in remembrance of the work of creation, that work of wonder, in which thou madest all things out of nothing, by the word of thy power, and all very good; and they continue to this day according to their ordinance, for all are thy servants. Thou art worthy to receive blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. O thou who at first didst command the light to shine out of darkness, who saidst on the first day of the week, Let there be light, and there was light; we pray thee shine this day into our hearts, to give us more and more of the light of the knowledge of thy glory; so let us be thy workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.

We also sanctify this day to the honour of our Lord Jesus Christ, thy only begotten Son, and our

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exalted Redeemer, in remembrance of his resurrection from the dead on the first day of the week, by which he was declared to be the Son of God with power. We bless thee, that having laid down his life to make atonement for sin, he rose again for our justification, that he might bring in an everlasting righteousness; that the stone which the builders refused is become the head of the corner; this is the Lord's doing, and wonderful in our eyes. We bless thee that he is risen from the dead, as the first fruits of them that slept, that he might be the resurrection and the life to us. And we pray, that while we are celebrating the memorial of that great event with joy and triumph, we may experience in our souls the power and virtue of his resurrection; that we may rise from the death of sin, to the life of righteousness; from the dust of this world, to a holy, heavenly, spiritual, and divine life.

We likewise sanctify this day to the honour of the eternal Spirit, that blessed Spirit of grace, the Comforter, rejoicing at the remembrance of the descent of the Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, the first day of the week likewise. We bless thee, that when Jesus was glorified, the Holy Ghost was given to supply the want of his bodily presence, to carry on his undertaking, and to prepare for his second coming; and that we have a promise that he shall abide with us for ever. And we pray that the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead, may dwell and

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rule in every one of us, to make us partakers of a new and divine nature. Come, O blessed Spirit of grace, and breathe upon our hearts, that they may live; and be in us a Spirit of faith, and love, and holiness.

O God, we bless thee for the great gospel record, that thou hast given to us eternal life, and this life in thy Son. Lord, we receive it as worthy of all acceptation, we venture our immortal souls upon it, and by it are encouraged to come to thee, imploring an interest in the mediation of thy Son. O may we be effectually called into fellowship with him, and by faith be united to him, so that Christ may live in us, and we may through him have eternal life. We bless thee for the new covenant made with us in Jesus Christ. Lord, we fly for refuge to it, we take hold of it as the hope set before us. O receive us graciously in the bonds of this covenant.

We pray thee, for Christ's sake, to forgive all our sins, known and unknown, in thought, word, and deed; through him may we be acquitted of all guilt. O let there be no cloud to interpose between us and our God, and to intercept our communion with him; let our iniquity be taken away, and our sins covered.

Let grace be with all those who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. In the chariot of the everlasting gospel, let the great Redeemer ride forth triumphantly, conquering and to conquer; and let every thought be brought into obedience

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to him. Let many believe the report of the Gospel, many sinners be converted, and the members of thy Church built up in faith, holiness, and comfort, unto salvation. Now the Lord of peace give us peace alway — the God of hope fill us with joy and peace in believing, through Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

MATTHEW HENRY.

O eternal and for ever blessed and glorious Lord God! thou art God over all, and rich in mercy to all that call upon thee; most wise and powerful, holy, just, and good; the King of kings, and Lord of lords.

We bewail before thee, that, by the corruption of our natures, we are become utterly unfit to inherit the kingdom of God, and by our many actual transgressions are become obnoxious to thy justice, and liable to thy wrath and curse. Being by nature children of disobedience, we are children of wrath, and have reason both to blush and tremble in all our approaches to the holy and righteous God. Even the iniquity of our holy things would be our ruin, should thou deal with us according to their imperfections.

But for us there is mercy and redemption. Thou hast graciously provided for all those who repent and believe the Gospel, that the guilt of their sin

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shall be removed through the merits of Christ's death, and the power of their sins broken by his grace; and he is in both ways able to save to the uttermost, all who come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth, making intercession for us.

Lord, we come to thee as a Father, and earnestly desire, by repentance and faith, to turn from the world and the flesh to God in Christ Jesus as our portion. We desire to have no more to do with sin, and pray as earnestly that the power of sin may be broken in us, as that the guilt of sin may be removed from us. We beg, that being justified by faith, we may have peace with God through him who was set forth to be the propitiation for sin. Through him, let us who know no righteousness of our own, be acceptable as righteous.

Convince us, we pray thee, of the worth of our own souls, the weight of eternity, and the awfulness of that everlasting state upon the brink of which we are standing, and make us diligent and serious in our preparation for it, labouring less for the meat which perisheth, and more for that which endureth to life eternal. O that time, and the things of time, may be as nothing compared to eternity! May that eternity be much in our hearts, and ever in our sight. May we be governed by that faith which is the substance of things hoped for; and the evidence of things not seen.

Prepare us, we beseech thee, for whatever we may meet with betwixt us and the grave. We

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know not what is before us, and therefore know not what particular provision to make. We beg of thee to fit us by thy grace for all the services and all the sufferings which thou shalt at any time call upon us to encounter. Arm us against every temptation by which we may at any time be assaulted, that we may at all times and in all conditions glorify God, keep a good conscience, and be found in the way of our duty; and keep up our hope and joy in Christ, believing in eternal life, and then welcome the holy will of God in all things.

We humbly pray thee, accomplish all thou hast promised concerning thy Church in the latter days. Fill the earth with thy glory. May the fulness of the Gentiles be brought in, and all Israel be saved. Let our country flourish in all its public interests; and thine everlasting Gospel be the glory in the midst of us, and thy providence a wall of fire around us.

Be very gracious to our sovereign lady the Queen; protect her person, prolong her days, guide her councils, let her reign be prosperous, and crown with thy blessing all her endeavours for the public good; and let all subordinate magistrates, in their several places, be faithful and serviceable to the nation.

Bless all the ministers of thy holy word and sacraments; make them burning and shining lights, faithful to Christ and to the souls of men. Unite all thy ministers and people together in the truth,

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and in love to one another. We bless thee for all the mercies of this thine own holy day; make us meet for the everlasting Sabbath, which we hope to keep within the veil, when time and days shall be no more. As we began this Lord's day with the joyful memorials of Christ's resurrection, so we desire to conclude it with the joyful expectations of Christ's second coming, and of our own resurrection to a life of immortality, triumphing in hope of the glory of God. Praise the Lord, O our souls, and let us love his holy name, for he is good, and his mercy endureth for ever.

Now unto the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, dominion and praise, henceforth and for ever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

REV. N. STINCKES.

Almighty and most loving Father, we here prostrate ourselves before thee, desiring to bless and praise thy holy name, both now and for evermore, for thine abundant loving kindness. It was of thine own good pleasure that thou at first gavest us a being when we were not; it is of thy most gracious hand over us that we are still preserved in it, notwithstanding all the dangers to which we are continually exposed. Through thy great patience and compassion we are now on this

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side the grave and everlasting misery, for we have deserved nothing of thee but thy heavy wrath and indignation; yet thou dost not fail to multiply upon us, from day to day, blessings both spiritual and temporal, for this life and in order to a better. Praised be thy name, O Lord, for dealing thus bountifully to us. Our mouths shall declare thy righteousness and salvation all the day long, for we know not the end thereof.

Thou art worthy, Lord, to receive glory, and honour, and power, for thou hast created all things. May men and angels never cease to worship and adore thee, and bless and magnify thy name, for thine infinite goodness to all thy creatures. As for us, it shall be our constant study to express our unfeigned gratitude for the innumerable benefits we have received from thy bounty, which are as great as they are undeserved, and so call for our utmost returns of duty to the Author of them.

All praise be to thee, for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; for our health and strength—our reason and understanding—our peace and quiet of mind—our credit and reputation—the abundance of outward things wherewith thou hast blessed us—our friends, and relations, and benefactors,—or whatever tends to make our being here comfortable.

But above all, may our souls, and all that is within us, glorify thee, O Lord, for that most gracious provision thou hast vouchsafed to make for us, in order to a better life when this shall end—

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for our redemption by the death and passion of our blessed Saviour—for the glad tidings of the Gospel, which not only hath brought life and immortality to light, and shewn us the way to it, now opened through his merits, but has, moreover, informed us what duty is requisite in order to obtain it, and how we must be qualified before we can be partakers thereof—for the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost—for the glorious effect of that descent in the speedy and miraculous propagation of the Gospel throughout the world—for that assistance which is still continued to ourselves and others, for enabling us to walk worthy of the vocation whereunto we are called—for thy word and sacraments — for the example of thy saints and martyrs, of the holy Apostles, and, above all, of our blessed Lord himself, who was made like unto us in all things, sin only excepted,—and for all the means of grace and hopes of glory that we enjoy through him, we desire now to magnify thy name. O that we could praise thee as we ought for these thine unspeakable mercies, and as the blessed spirits above praise thee; that as heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory, so our hearts and mouths may be duly filled with thy praise, who art the Giver of all these blessings unto us! Let a sense, we beseech thee, O Lord, of these thy great mercies be constantly fixed in our minds, and so deeply rooted and settled there, that we may never make thee any unworthy

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returns for them, but all the powers of our souls may exert themselves to set forth thy glory. Fill our minds with such true thankfulness as may never cease to be manifested, not merely by a bare return of praise, but likewise by the holiness and uprightness of our conversation. Make us to be in the fear of the Lord all the day long, and may it never enter into our breasts to do any thing unworthy of such excessive goodness to us; but may we perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Almighty God, powerful and merciful, thou art a jealous God against persevering sinners, but a gracious Father to the penitent; let thy merciful ears be opened to the petitions of thy servants, who, with sorrow and shame, confess their sins unto thee.

We have loved the world, not thee; we have obeyed the desires of our own hearts, not thy holy laws and commandments; we have left our duty undone, but cease not to please ourselves in vanity and folly. Thou hast commanded us to love our brethren, and instead of loving, we have slandered and reproached, injured and provoked them — envied their good, and rejoiced in their calamity.

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O blessed God, we are ashamed when we remember our many follies, our violent passions, our peevishness and pride, our vain thoughts and unprofitable words, our uncharitable and useless conversation; and though our sins are so many that we cannot number them, yet we so little apprehend our own dangers, that we neither leave them utterly nor heartily deplore them.

Lord of pity and compassion, have mercy upon us; for thou art our Father, merciful and gracious, and thou hast revealed to mankind an infinite mercy in Christ Jesus. For his sake be pleased to give us repentance and pardon, and grant that our souls being regenerated by baptism and thy Holy Spirit, we may live a gracious and blessed life in all godliness and honesty.

Vouchsafe to receive us ever into thy favour and protection, defending us from all evil accidents, ruling and governing us with thy Holy Spirit; that all darkness and hurtful ignorance, all infidelity and weakness of heart, all inordinate fear and carnal affections, may be removed far from us. Grant that we may first be pure, then peaceable; living in peace with all men, and preserving the peace which thy Son hath made for us with thee, that we may never commit a sin that may interrupt so blessed an atonement. Let neither hope nor fear, tribulation nor anguish, pleasure nor pain, make us to relinquish our interest in thee, and our portion of the everlasting covenant; but give us hearts constant, bold, and valiant, to confess thee

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before all the world, in the midst of all disadvantages; choosing rather to suffer disgrace, affliction, or even death itself, than sacrifice a good conscience.

Imprint in our hearts awful apprehensions of thy judgments and thy mercies, of our sins and approaching change, of our uncertain life and the day of death, of our duty and our danger, and the inexpressible terrors of the day of judgment. Teach us, in proportion to such apprehensions, to walk in this world with fear and caution, with hope and purity, with diligence and devotion.

And whilst we offer up petitions for ourselves, be pleased, Lord, we beseech thee, so to direct the affairs of the world, that all things may be subservient to the work of the Gospel, to retrench the growth of vice, and to advance the interests of virtue. Make all estates and orders of men disciples and followers of thy blessed Son; let princes worship thee, and defend religion; let thy clergy do thee honour, by personal zeal and vigilance; let all the world submit to thy sceptre, praise thy righteousness, adore thy judgments, and revere thy laws; let the multitudes of people who have heard thy word so far profit by it, as to be invited by thy promises, and won by thy love. And grant unto us all, in obedience to thy divine command, so truly to repent us of our sins, so carefully to reform our errors, so diligently to watch over all our actions, so industriously to do all our duty, that we may never transgress thy

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holy laws willingly; but may it be the work of our lives to obey thee—the joy of our souls to please thee—the satisfaction of all our hopes, and the perfection of our desires, to live with thee in the holiness of thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose prevailing name and words we sum up all our wants, saying, "Our Father," &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

NEW MANUAL OF DEVOTIONS.

O Father of mercies, and God of all comfort! Thou art the sweet refreshment of our souls, and the constant preserver and support of our bodies; by thee have we been upheld ever since our birth, preserved from all perils and dangers, and our frail bodies comforted with quiet repose. Great and numberless have been thy mercies to us, O God, for which we desire with humble and thankful hearts to bless and praise thy holy name.

May a sense of thy goodness be always present to our minds, so that the remembrance of thy past favours may implant in us such a firm reliance on thy fatherly care and good providence, that we may perfectly resign ourselves to thy disposal in all things, and entirely submit to all thy dealings and dispensations towards us.

Lord, we confess that we are not worthy of the least of thy mercies, and if thou shouldst deal

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with us according to our deserts, we could expect nothing from thee but the severities of thy wrath and displeasure. O thou, whose property is ever to have mercy and forgive, be not extreme, we beseech thee, to mark what we have done amiss, but, for the sake of thy beloved Son, pardon our offences, and receive us to thy favour, without which we must be miserable and sinful creatures. Let us never despise thy goodness, but let thy fear be always before us, that we may not sin against thee; and giving up ourselves willingly to thy service, we may endeavour in all things to obey thy blessed will, and keep our consciences void of offence, both towards thee and our fellow-creatures.

Grant us, O Lord, the assistance of thy Holy Spirit, for of ourselves we are unable to please thee; our nature is corrupt, and prone to evil; we are ever beset with temptations, and our own experience sadly teaches us how easily we are drawn away by the deceiver.

Thou who art the Saviour of all who put their trust in thee, deliver us, we beseech thee, from the enemy of our souls, who is ever lying in wait to destroy; be our stronghold, and evermore mightily defend us. O leave us not to ourselves, neither forsake us, O God of our salvation; lead us in the way wherein we should go, guide us with thy right hand, and conduct us safely through the snares of this dangerous world; and though thou shouldst permit us to fall into severe trials, yet

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suffer us not, we entreat thee, to be tempted above what we are able to bear.

Let no calamity ever drive us from thee, or any prosperity cause us to forget thee; but grant that all thy providences towards us may work together for our good, and be a powerful means of bringing us to thee with an entire dependence upon thee, assuredly believing that all our concerns are best and safest in thy hands, under the care and disposal of thy infinite wisdom and goodness.

Let not the world get possession of our hearts; let not the pomps and vanities, so solemnly renounced by us in baptism, become the object of our foolish desires. O God, be thou our only joy and comfort, our hope and delight, our rest and support in this world, and our eternal bliss and happiness in the life which is to come.

O Lord, we humbly beg of thee to strengthen our faith, fortify our minds, and to endue us with honest and upright hearts; bless all our sincere designs and endeavours, and direct us in all our actions, that we may do nothing that is contrary to thy will; let no worldly interest or advantage have power to ensnare us, but may thy Spirit of grace powerfully restrain us from those sins most liable to assail our weakness; preserve us in all our temporal affairs, and let no evil befall us, or any endeared to us by the ties of relationship or affection; keep us in peace and innocence, in love and charity with each other; and grant, while passing through things temporal, we may be daily

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preparing for those better things that are eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord and only Saviour, in whose name and words we commend to thy mercy and protection, ourselves and all our fellow-creatures. "Our Father," &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

REV. B. JENKS.

O Lord, thou art our gracious Lord, our chief good, and our most merciful Father in Christ Jesus; in his great name, and through his prevailing mediation, we are encouraged still to present our persons and our prayers before thee. It is a privilege which we must acknowledge ourselves as utterly unworthy to enjoy, that thou shouldst admit us into thy service, yea, into fellowship with thee. We do not presume to appear in the presence of thy glorious Majesty in our own name, or trusting in any righteousness of our own, being conscious of so much guilt as might make us tremble for fear of thy judgment; but we come in the name and mediation of our Redeemer, who has fully satisfied thy justice for our sins, and continually intercedes for us at thy right hand. Him thou lovest above all, and delightest to honour him, by accepting and sparing the most unworthy sinners upon his account. O deliver us, most gracious Lord, for his sake, from all the transgressions for which our hearts condemn us, and from

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all of which thou, who art greater than our hearts, knowest us to be guilty.

And may the time past of our lives suffice to have lived to ourselves, and to have served our own pleasures. Put an end to all our presumptuous and treacherous dealings; grant us new and contrite hearts, that we may tremble at thy presence, and hate and abandon every evil way. Engage to thyself, O Lord, the deepest thoughts of our minds, the choicest affections of our hearts, and the main tendency and activity of our souls. Let us delight in attendance on thee, and in communion with thee, nor let the vanities of this world ever divert us from thy service, or interrupt our delight in spiritual employments. Hear us, O Lord, for ourselves, and let our supplications also ascend before thee in behalf of all men living. Send thy word, and the means of grace, to such as are yet destitute of them; and make them efficacious, and the savour of life, to those who now enjoy them. Convert the unconverted, and perfect thy good work where it is begun. O make thy Church to increase and flourish, and thy servants to prevail and rejoice. Be favourable to this our native land, to the head and governors of it, and all the inferior members. Do thou rule all our rulers, counsel all our counsellors, teach all our teachers, and order all our public affairs to the glory of thy name, and welfare of our Church and State. Avert from us the judgments which we feel or fear, and continue to us the many temporal

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and spiritual advantages which, through thy favour, we enjoy.

Look down, O gracious Father, on all the sons and daughters of affliction, mercifully regard them under the pressure of their troubles, and have pity and compassion towards them. Sanctify thy fatherly corrections to them, support them under their several burdens, and in thy good time deliver them from the furnace into which they are cast. Be gracious to all our friends and neighbours, reward our benefactors, and bless our relations with the choicest of thy blessings. Bless also our enemies, and reconcile them both to us and to thyself. Let thy heavenly and saving grace descend and rest upon this family. O guide and keep us, make us wise and faithful in our duty, and prosperous in all our lawful undertakings. Bless all our present circumstances to us, and fit us for whatsoever changes we may be called upon to experience; teach us how to want, and how to abound; and whether in prosperity or adversity, secure our hearts to thyself, and make us upright before thee. And now, O Lord, be pleased to accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; we glorify the Father of mercies for the infinite variety of sweet and comfortable blessings with which thou hast loaded us. Imprint, therefore, and preserve upon our hearts a lively sense of gratitude for all thy loving-kindness; let our souls bless thee, and all that is within us praise thy holy name. Thy patience with us, thy care over us,

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and thy continual mercy to us, demand our unceasing praise; to thee, therefore, O Father, let all thanks, and praise, and love, and obedience, and honour, and glory, be rendered by us, henceforth and for evermore. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

PRIMER OF KING EDWARD VI.

O gracious Lord, and most merciful Father, who hast from the beginning of our lives delivered us from innumerable perils and dangers both of soul and body; we most heartily thank thee; and yet, forasmuch as we feel in ourselves so many faults and imperfections, such readiness to all evil, and so much slackness to do any good, we tremble for fear of thy wrath and strict judgment. But, when we consider that thou commandest us by prayer to crave of thee all things necessary for soul and body, we conceive a little hope of recovery of that which we so greatly need. It is no little comfort and joy when we remember that thou, O Father, not only commandest us to pray, but also of thine exceeding great mercy, promisest graciously to hear, and mercifully to grant, our lawful and needful requests. And our faith, confidence, and sure trust is, that thou art true and just in all thy words and promises, and both can and will perform them. Howbeit, we presume not to ask in our name,

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neither for our merits, but for the righteousness of Christ Jesus, and in his most blessed and holy name, and for thy mercy and truth's sake. So frail is our nature, so sinful our hearts, so corrupt our affections even from our youth up, that of ourselves we can neither think, breathe, speak, or do any thing praiseworthy in thy sight. O heavenly Father, except thou dost assist us with thy merciful goodness, we see nothing present in ourselves but thy heavy displeasure and eternal condemnation. Vouchsafe, therefore, O loving Father, to send thy Holy Spirit within us, filling our hearts with new affections and spiritual desires, and so altogether renew us both in body and soul through thy godly inspiration, that we may die unto sin and live unto thee, serving the Lord our God in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Touching all those things that pertain to our corruptible bodies and transitory lives, we humbly beseech thy fatherly goodness to grant them unto us, so far as they agree with thy holy will, pleasure, honour, and glory, and may best be suited to our improvement, profit, and advantage. Nevertheless, we beseech thee, good Lord, grant them to us, not at such time as we fancy to be best, but at such times as shall appear to be most meet to thy righteous Majesty; unto whose protection we commend ourselves, and all belonging to us. Moreover, seeing that thou regardest no prayer unless it be made in love and charity,

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we humbly beseech thy gracious goodness that we may always pray in charity; make our petitions and requests in charity; use thy gracious gifts and benefits in charity; and lead all our whole lives and conversations in charity. The badge whereby thy disciples are known, O Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, is charity or love, which cometh out of a pure heart, a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. We pray thee, therefore, give us this Christian love and perfect charity, that we may love thee, our God, with all our heart, and all our mind, and all our soul, and all our strength; doing always of very love that only which is pleasant in thy sight: Again, that we may love our neighbours and brethren of mankind as ourselves, ready at all times to do for them whatever lieth in our power, that when we shall stand before thy dreadful judgment-seat, we, being known by thy badge, may be numbered among thy disciples, and so through thy mercy receive the reward of eternal glory.

Finally, we heartily pray thee, that we may daily, by the assistance of thy Holy Spirit, more and more mortify all our worldly desires and sinful affections. And vouchsafe to prosper both us and ours, and all Christian congregations in all uprightness and godliness: increase also thy gifts in us all, and confirm and strengthen us so by thy grace that we may go forward in all goodness. Grant this, most merciful Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

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WEDNESDAY EVENING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Almighty God, Father of all men, who hast disposed all things as may best glorify thy wisdom, serve the ends of thy justice, and magnify thy mercy, thy secret and undiscernible ways bringing good out of evil; we humbly beseech thee to give us wisdom from above, that we may adore thee, and admire thy ways and footsteps, which are in the great deep, and not to be searched out. Teach us to submit to thy providence in all things, to be content in all changes of person and condition, to be temperate in prosperity, and in adversity to be meek, patient, and resigned, and to look through the cloud of darkness and trouble, for thy consolation, which thou in mercy vouchsafest to them that love thee; in the meantime, doing our duty with an unwearied diligence, and an undisturbed resolution, weaning our affections from the vanities or possessions of this world, and laying up our hopes in heaven and eternity.

Almighty Judge, thy anger is always the minister of justice, slow but severe, not lightly arising, but falling heavily when it comes; give us, with resignation to thy will, a meek and a gentle spirit, that we also may be slow to anger, and easy to mercy and forgiveness. Give us wisdom, that so we may not be moved with

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every trifling mistake and inconsiderable accident in our intercourse and conversation with others.

Lord, let us ever be courteous and easy to be entreated, never falling into a contentious spirit, but following peace with all men, offering forgiveness, inviting them by courtesies, ready to confess our own errors, apt to make atonement, and desirous to be reconciled.

Let no sickness or accident, no employment or weariness, make us angry, ungentle, discontented, or unthankful to those about us, but in all things make us like the holy Jesus. Give unto us a Christian spirit, charitable, humble, merciful, and meek, useful and liberal, expressing our anger at our own sins, and grieving for the sins of others; that, while our passion obeys our reason, and our reason is religious, and our religion is pure and undefiled, directed with humility, and adorned with charity, we may escape thy deserved anger, and may dwell in thy love. Take from us all vanity and over-weening complacency in our own actions. Let us never seek the praise of men, nor entertain it with delight, however laudable the principles from which it may proceed, but fear and tremble lest we deserve punishment, or lose a reward which thou hast assigned to all those who seek thy glory, and despise their own, that they may be induced to imitate the example of their Lord. Thou, Lord, didst triumph over sin and death; subdue also our proud understanding, and our prouder affections, and bring us under thy

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yoke, that we may obey our superiors, and be servants of all our brethren in their necessities, and esteem ourselves inferior to all men, by a deep sense of our own unworthiness; and in all things may obey thy laws, and conform to thine example, and enter into thine inheritance, O holy and eternal Jesus.

Have mercy upon all that desire and all that need our prayers. Ease the pains of the sick; support the spirits of the disconsolate; hear the cries of orphans and widows in their calamity; restore all that are oppressed in their rights, and sanctify to them all their wrongs; pity the follies, and alleviate the distresses of poor mankind; in mercy remember those who are appointed to die; comfort and support their spirits; perfect and accept their repentance, and receive their souls returning unto thee.

Lord, pity and pardon, direct and bless, sanctify and save us all. Give repentance to all now living in sin, and perseverance to all thy sons and servants, for his sake, who is the foundation of all our hopes, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who taught us thus to pray,—"Our Father," &c.

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THURSDAY MORNING.

REV. THOMAS SCOTT.

Most glorious and gracious God, we, thy unworthy servants, desire to bless thee for all the comforts and protection thou hast afforded us. Assist us to present our praises and thanksgivings, and to unite in prayer and supplication before thy mercy seat.

Lord, who are we to venture into thy presence, before whom even the seraphims veil their faces in deep humility? And we are not only lower than the angels in our powers, but we have been guilty of base ingratitude for thy bounties, and of multiplied acts of rebellion against thee our Creator and Sovereign. We have forsaken thee, the fountain of living waters, to seek happiness in the broken cisterns of earthly enjoyments and possessions. We have refused thee our tribute of worship and love, have broken thy commandments in thought, word, and deed, and have abased thy gifts to the dishonour of thy name. Thus we would with shame confess that we are fallen under condemnation, and are wholly unable to deliver our own souls. If thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquity, who could stand? Through the atoning sacrifice and prevailing intercession of our blessed Redeemer, we would approach thy throne of grace, and we desire to unite our penitent con-

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fessions with lively faith and hope, blessing thee for thy unspeakable benefits. Lord, give us true repentance and living faith. Convince us more deeply of our sinfulness, that we may approach thee in genuine poverty of spirit, and with sincere desires after the blessings we ask. Enlighten our understandings to perceive more clearly the nature and glory of thy gospel, and more fully to know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. Teach us to count all things but loss, that we may win Christ, and partake of his salvation. May thy holy word be treasured up in our memories, grafted in our hearts, and manifested in our tempers and conduct. Do thou rectify our mistakes, deliver us from prejudices, and hold up our goings in thy paths, that our footsteps slip not. May the world be crucified to us, and we to the world. May we be clothed with humility, walk before thee in fear, and serve thee in the spirit of adoption.

Enable us, for thy sake, to do good unto all men, especially to them that are of the household of faith, and to live in peace one with another. May thy grace teach us to renounce all worldliness, to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present life, and to be content with such things as we have.

May we be followers of the lowly Jesus, and imitate his example, acting with true wisdom towards all around us, and improve our talents to the glory of thy great name.

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O merciful Lord, we beseech thee to have compassion on all that are afflicted, indigent, oppressed, and enslaved, and to send them deliverance. Give consolation to the tempted and persecuted of thy children. Bless thy faithful ministers, and send forth thy labourers unto thine harvest. Prosper every method of imparting thy saving truth to those that sit in darkness and the shadow of death. Bless and enlarge thy Church, and fill the whole earth with the glory of thy name.

Hear, we beseech thee, these our prayers and supplications. Be ever present with us; may we act as under thine eye, and as becomes thy people, habitually prepared for death and judgment.

These, and every other mercy, we most humbly ask, for the sake, and through the merits and mediation of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

REV. THOMAS SCOTT.

O God, thou art ever present, and knowest al things. Thy majesty and condescension, thy justice and compassion, are alike infinite and adorable. Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head over all. We come to humble ourselves before thee for the sins of our whole past lives. Give us, we entreat thee, such a knowledge of thy holy law, and of its spiritual demands, that

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we may be fully sensible of our exceeding sinfulness, and so judge ourselves, that we may not be condemned before thy awful tribunal. Help us, O gracious Lord, to believe thy gospel with living faith, and continually to come unto thee as the fountain of life and felicity, through the righteousness and redemption of our great High Priest, who ever liveth to make intercession for us; and give us such confidence in thy pardoning mercy, and such love, gratitude, and zeal, as may lead us to unreserved obedience, and make us steadfast, immoveable, and always abounding in thy work.

The return of night reminds us how short our time is, and how soon we must close our eyes on all things here below. O leave us not to neglect the important work of life. Teach us so to meditate on the shortness and vanity of things temporal, and on the nearness and importance of things eternal, that we may indeed be strangers and pilgrims upon earth, and seek a heavenly inheritance with our warmest affections and most unwearied diligence. Make thou the thoughts of death and judgment so familiar to us, and yet so impressed on our hearts, that they may excite us to earnestness in all the means of grace; that we may renounce every idol and iniquity, and so act in all things as to have comfort on the bed of death.

Help us, we earnestly entreat thee, to apply to our consciences that atoning blood which cleanseth from all sin. Sanctify to us thy dispensations,

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and our own experience of thy providence; and teach us to thank thee with unfeigned hearts for the mercies and comforts with which we have been favoured.

We commend to thy care and blessing all who are dear unto us. Teach us to use all proper means of doing them good, and of winning upon such as still neglect thy great salvation. Bless thy whole Church. Endue thy ministers with wisdom, clothe them with righteousness, and make them valiant and zealous for thy truth. Enable thy servants to rejoice in thee; let thy grace be sufficient for them in all their trials and temptations. Give them victory in every conflict, and prosper all their endeavours to glorify thy name and do good to mankind. Send forth thy light and truth to all nations; disperse the dark clouds of idolatry, impiety, superstition, and infidelity; and set up thy kingdom of peace and righteousness throughout the earth. Continue, we beseech thee, to bless our land with peace, liberty, and the light of thy gospel. Visit with compassion, and thy saving grace, all the sons and daughters of affliction, and teach them to profit by thy chastisements. And may the God of peace, who raised again from the dead our Lord Jesus, through the blood of the covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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FRIDAY MORNING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O eternal God, gracious and merciful, the fountain of pardon and holiness, hear the petitions and regard the supplications of thy servants. We humbly confess our sins to thee, and while we are subduing them by the aids of thy Spirit, let us be written in the book of life, and our sins be blotted out of the registers of death, that being expiated and forgiven, dead and buried in the grave of Jesus, we may live to thee a life of righteousness, and grow in it till we shall arrive at a state of glory.

O give unto thy servants intentions so real, a resolution so strong, a repentance so holy, a life so pure, a charity so sublime, that no temptation or time, no health or sickness, no accident or interest may be able, in any circumstance of things or persons, to tempt us from thee and prevail. Work in us a holy and unreprovable faith, whereby we may overcome the world, and crucify the flesh, and quench the fiery darts of the devil. Let our hatred of sin pass into the love of religion, that we may proceed in holiness, and abide in thy favour.

Holy Jesus, make us to acknowledge thee to be our Lord and Master, and ourselves servants and disciples of thy holy Gospel; let us love to sit at thy feet, to draw in with our hearts and ears the

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edification of thy doctrines; and grant that we may always remember that thy name is called upon us. Be pleased to build up all the comfort we expect in this world, upon the interests of a virtuous life, and the supports of religion, that we may be content in the issues of providence, rich in good works, our health the result of temperance, our mirth consist in innocence, our rest in hope, our peace in a good conscience; that, from content, we may pass to an eternal felicity, from health to immortality, from grace to glory, walking in the paths of righteousness to the land of everlasting rest.

Eternal Saviour, who art made unto us wisdom, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption, give unto us of thy abundant charity, that we may feel a real solicitude, and live under its pervading influence, for the welfare and happiness, both present and future, of all our neighbours and brethren. Give us a fellow feeling of one another's calamities, and readiness to bear one another's burdens, aptness to forbear, wisdom to advise, counsel to direct, and a spirit of meekness and modesty, sympathizing in their troubles, and joyful in their security. Lord, let all our actions be pious and prudent, ourselves wise as serpents and harmless as doves, and our whole life exemplary, and just, and charitable, that we may, like lamps shining in the temple, serve thee and enlighten others, guiding them to thy sanctuary, and confirming them in thy faith and fear.

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O thou, who, for us, wast led like a lamb to the slaughter, plant in our hearts gentleness and patience — a meek and long-suffering spirit — never transported with violent anger, nor disordered by peevishness, nor entertaining thoughts of revenge; but may we with meekness receive all injuries, with patience every accident, and with charity return blessing for cursing, good for evil, loving words for scornful reproaches, gentle treatment for derision and affronts; that, passing all our days in peace with all men, and loving our neighbour as ourselves, and thee, blessed Jesus, more than ourselves, we may enter into the regions of everlasting love, where thou livest, who lovest all men, and wouldst have none to perish.

Keep us this day and ever, in all our ways, from accidents and dangers — from malice and violence — from evil company — from the hands of our enemies — from a sinful life — and from despair in the day of our death. O gracious Redeemer, let thy mercies sustain us in all our agonies, weaknesses, and temptations, that, with the sense of thy loving-kindnesses, we may depart this life in the unity of the Church, in the love of God, and a certain hope of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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FRIDAY EVENING.

REV. H. VENN.

Blessed and holy Lord God, who didst make all things by thy power, who rulest all things by thy providence, and fillest all places with thy presence, we, thy poor creatures, beseech thee to fill every one of our hearts with an awful sense of thee, and with humility, sincerity, and faith in Christ, in our approaches to thee. We thus fully acknowledge our absolute dependence upon thee —that our lives, and all the comforts of them, are the effects of thy bounty. Thy mercy brought us into the world, and has ever since filled us with variety of good. Most justly mightest thou have brought upon us all the curses written in the book of thy law against our transgressions. And had thy ways been as our ways when we are injured, and thy thoughts like our thoughts toward our enemies, we had long since been past the power of ever offering to thee our thanks and praise — beyond the benefit of prayer, or the hope of pardon.

We confess, O Lord, that we have been transgressors of thy law, in thought, word, and deed; we have often sinned against the clear revelation of thy will, and the strongest obligations binding us to comply with it. We have sinned often in the midst of the tenderest expressions of thy

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mercy towards us. We have sinned against thy most inviting promises, and thy most dreadful warnings, against the threatenings of thy word, the powerful convictions of the Spirit, and the precious blood of Christ. We have sinned against the light of our understanding, against promises and purposes of obedience, and the strongest remonstrances of our own hearts.

Increase in us, good Lord, that faith by which alone we can be justified, and have peace with thee through our Lord Jesus Christ; for though we have no righteousness of our own that we dare to plead in the eye of thy law, thou hast thyself provided for sinners an all-sufficient righteousness in thy Son, that, believing on him, we might be pardoned, and through his stripes we might be healed.

Accompany thy pardoning mercy with thy purifying grace; and as our Lord Jesus Christ died for sin to condemn it in the flesh, let us die unto sin, and utterly subdue it: may it never reign within us that we should fulfil the desires thereof. Help us, O Father, God of all power and might, to put off the old man, which is corrupt, and to put on the new man, which is created after thine own image, in righteousness and true holiness. Give us hearts weaned from the pomps and pleasures, the profits and honours, and all the transitory enjoyments of the flesh; but hungering and thirsting after righteousness, never to be satisfied. Prevent us by thy grace, and restrain us by

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thy Spirit, that we may never more commit sin with the false deceitful hope of gaining any advantage by it. Impress us continually with the certainty of that truth, that the gaining of the whole world can be no recompense for the loss of the soul. O let that solemn account we must ere long give, when the throne shall be set, the books opened, and the dead, small and great, shall stand before God, order the whole course of our lives; let its influence pervade our whole conversation, and be made mighty in operation to form our conduct; let us so believe and so obey, that when Christ shall come in the clouds with power and with great glory, we may arise with joy, and be glad in his salvation.

We humbly commit ourselves, our dear friends, relatives, and neighbours, to thy merciful protection this night. Defend, we beseech thee, our persons, and dwellings, and our possessions, from all danger. Refresh and strengthen us; and with all the health of our bodies and vigour of our minds, let us serve thee all our days, till we enter into that blessed kingdom, where we shall receive the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be all power and glory ascribed, world without end. Amen.

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SATURDAY MORNING.

REV. J. BEAN.

Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, we thank thee for having made thyself known by these and other gracious names; they encourage guilty and helpless sinners to pray, to hope, and to rejoice. Nor is it in thy word alone that we find these encouragements, but likewise in the world which we inhabit. Though it aboundeth with offences against thee, yet it affordeth numerous means of comfort and enjoyment.

We thank thee, O Lord, for every thing which thou hast mercifully provided to remove pain, to rescue us from immediate death, to give length to our days, and comfort to ourselves or to those to whom we are dear. We bless thee for all the mercies which we so abundantly possess in the life that now is, and which are so fitted to promote our comfort and happiness while travelling onwards to the better country.

But how shall we find words to express that mercy which thou hast manifested in the redemption of mankind? By our sins we have not only brought pain and distress upon ourselves, but have exposed ourselves to thy righteous anger, and to a sentence of everlasting banishment from thy presence. But rich in mercy, as well as infinite in wisdom, thou hast provided the means of our

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being saved from these dreadful consequences of disobedience.

And, O great God! how astonishing are those means! Could it ever have entered into the heart of man to conceive, that thou shouldst so love the world as to give thine only begotten Son for its salvation! O grant that this mercy of thine, so unspeakably great, may have its due effect on our hearts and lives.

Let the recollection of it ever abide with us, rejoicing our hearts, sweetening our labours, allaying our fears, regulating our lives, reconciling us to sufferings, and securing us against snares. And let it have its proper influence upon us, in our disposition and conduct towards our fellow-creatures, inclining us to charity, to peace, to gentleness, to patience, to forbearance.

Let none of the enjoyments of this life so sensualize our hearts, as to make us forget Him who died for us. While we are partaking of the bounties of Providence, let us call to mind the bloody sweat, the crown of thorns, and the cross of a suffering Saviour.

And may we lift up a thankful heart to Him, through whom the curse to which we were exposed is removed, and the blessings we have forfeited are restored.

Enable us, O merciful Father, to walk as the disciples of Jesus. Let us pursue the duties of our callings in a sweet and peaceful reliance on the care which thou art pleased to take of thy

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servants. Thou art able to save us from the greatest evils; and thou art willing to extend thy providential regards to the least things in which our happiness is concerned. Enable us, then, to honour thee as our Sovereign Lord, and to trust in thee as our protector through Jesus Christ, on whose intercession we place all our hopes of acceptance with thee. "Our Father," &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

REV. J. BEAN.

O Lord God, to whom we are indebted for all our enjoyments, graciously vouchsafe to hear us while we acknowledge them. From thee we receive all that renders the day pleasant, and the night peaceful. Thou gavest us the cheering light of day for our necessary employments; and thou hast now brought on the stillness of the night, that we may be at rest, and that our wearied nature may be refreshed with sleep.

We thank thee, O Lord, for the provisions which thou hast made for the body; but we have greater mercies than these to acknowledge. Thou hast provided us with the means of walking with God by day, and of lying down in peace when our labours are over. O that every one of us may be blessed with that knowledge of thee, as a God of grace, which thy faithful servants enjoy;

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and which makes them humble and thankful for the common comforts of life.

We would remember, in the use and enjoyment of all our bodily comforts, that we are sinful creatures; and therefore that we owe these blessings to the free riches of thy grace.

Thence, O Lord, cometh the health we have enjoyed this day, the food with which our table is spread, the sleep we hope for this night, and all the gifts that render our lives comfortable. And if for these enjoyments we are bound to sing of thy mercy, how much more for the richer blessings of that redemption which we obtain through the blood of Jesus! O Lord, we have no words that will fully express our obligations to thee for these mercies. Here thou art exalted above all blessing and praise. But we will endeavour to sing thy praise with all our power, and thy grace shall be the continual subject of our thanksgiving.

And now, O Lord, since thou art willing to bless us with spiritual and everlasting blessings, may we be more desirous of them than of the comforts of the present life. Yea, so may we learn to estimate the things that belong to our peace, as to account all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Adored be thy holy name, that these inestimable benefits are offered to us, without money and without price. Adored be thy holy name, for declaring, that whosoever will, may take of the

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water of life freely. Encouraged by this gracious invitation, so suited to our condition, we come to thee for these thy greatest mercies.

Vouchsafe unto us, most gracious God, the pardon of all our sins. Sanctify us in body, soul, and spirit. And, if it please thee, may we be favoured with a comfortable persuasion of our being in a state of reconciliation with thee; that our days may be brightened by faith and hope; that in our temporal enjoyments we may have a sense of thy goodness; and that we may be preserved from all those distressing thoughts to which a consciousness of sin renders us liable.

And now, O Lord, we humbly implore thee to forgive whatever hath been wrong in our behaviour this day. Pity and pardon, not only us, but all our fellow-mortals, and be mercifully pleased to visit us all with thy grace, granting us all thy peace, and assisting us to walk, throughout our whole lives, in obedience to thy holy word. These great blessings we beseech thee to grant to us, for the sake of thy dear Son, our only advocate. Amen.

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FOURTH WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, thy name is great, thy goodness is eternal, and thy power hath no limit. Thou art the God and Lord of all, blessed for evermore. Give unto us the light of thy countenance, pardon of our sins, health of our bodies, sanctification of our spirits, peace from Heaven, and salvation of our souls in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Hear our prayers for thy holy Church, which thou hast redeemed with thy blood, sealed and sanctified with thy Spirit. With strict obedience, and pure spiritual sacrifices, may she be accepted in her daily and nightly prayers, and may the gates of hell never prevail against her.

We pray unto thee for all Christian kings, princes, governors, and states. Crown them with justice and peace, with thy love, O God, and the love of their people; that, being ministers of the King of kings, friends of religion, ministers of justice, and patrons of the poor, they may at last

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inherit a portion in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember all them that do thy work in the ministry and conduct of souls. Give unto them great gifts and distinguished holiness, that, in their lives and ministry, they may advance the salvation of mankind, and the honour of Jesus. Grant them this day to be signal instruments in thy hand of converting sinners from the error of their ways, and of building up thy household in thy faith and fear. And grant unto us, thy servants, who are about to assemble in thy courts, to hear thy holy word with reverence and edification, and to profit by it to the salvation of our souls.

In mercy remember the poor and needy, the widow and the fatherless, the strangers and the friendless, the oppressed and the grieved, the weak of heart and the weak in body, them that languish and them that are dying. Relieve their necessities, comfort their sorrows, sanctify their calamities, strengthen their weaknesses, and suffer not the devil to prevail against them in the days of their trouble, and, in thy due time, deliver them from their sad bondage into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

We pray unto thee, O blessed Father, in behalf of all that are in banishment and captivity, in fetters or hard services, in want or in extreme poverty, in great fear or any great temptation. Keep them from sinning against thee, and from

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being overpowered by too great a sorrow. Let the accidents of their lives be under the command of reason and of thy Holy Spirit, and end in holiness and comfort, in peace and joys eternal, through the mercies of our God in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Keep us, O Lord, from famine and pestilence, from fire and sword, from false religion, and from discountenancing the true. Let every Christian soul find pity at the throne of grace. Pardon all our sins; take away our iniquities; preserve us from all danger and trouble, from need and persecution, from the temptations of the devil, and the violence and fraud of our enemies. Let all our errors and ignorances find pardon by Christ, and remedy by thy Holy Spirit. Hear all our prayers, relieve all our necessities, sanctify all the events of thy providence, and the changes of our life. May thy word, this day preached, afford comfort to the afflicted, and support to the feeble. Pierce the wicked with awe, and the careless with apprehension, that we may all for ever love and for ever fear thee, and all things work together for our good, with thy glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose most holy name and words we farther call upon thee, saying, "Our Father," &c.

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SUNDAY EVENING.

SIR W. DAWES, BART. D.D.

O holy and ever blessed Lord, who hast commanded us to wait upon thee in prayer, remove far from our hearts all worldly thoughts, and give us grace so to set our affections on things above, that none of the temptations of this world may be able to withdraw us from thee. Inspirit and enliven our earthy drossy hearts, that they may freely mount towards thee: make us sincere in these our duties, and not deceive our own souls, for thou, O Lord, canst not be deceived with a slight, formal, careless performance of them. Lord, grant that we may approach thee with the reverence due to thine awful Majesty, and while in thy presence, do nothing to injure our own souls, or tend to thy dishonour; but may we improve this occasion by piety and humility.

We confess and bewail our grievous iniquities; when weighed in the balance of the Sanctuary, we are found very light,—light, indeed, in all good works; but our sins are very heavy, a burden too weighty to bear: look upon us, most merciful Father, with pity and compassion. We are oppressed with the guilt, and overwhelmed with the shame, belonging to our offences; send us comfort, O blessed Redeemer, according to thy mercies, and our great necessities of pardon and

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repentance; enable us to amend our lives for the time to come. Out of thine infinite goodness, thou hast been pleased to give us a sight and sense of our sins; O let us ever hate and abhor them, and so establish us with thy grace, that no temptation of the world, the flesh, or the devil, may ever be able to draw us to offend thee; but, becoming thy servants, we may have our fruit unto holiness, and in the end everlasting life.

Merciful Lord, who didst send thy Son into the world to redeem the world, and art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, and a knowledge of thy truth, have pity upon all Christians, Infidels, and Heathens. Let the light of thy gospel shine forth, even unto the remotest and darkest corners of the earth, that so the whole world may come to the saving knowledge of thy truth, and become one Church under one Supreme Head, Christ Jesus. And grant, O Lord, that all those who by thy infinite grace and favour have heard of the name of Christ, and are admitted into the communion of his Church, may endeavour to adorn the religion they profess by the holiness and integrity of their lives, by a pure, meek, and humble conversation. Bless all degrees of men in the whole world, from the highest to the lowest, but more especially those whom thou hast intrusted with the sovereign power, granting them wisdom with their authority, to the encouragement of virtue, and condemnation of vice. To all

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of inferior stations give thy heavenly grace, that they may be mindful of their several duties, and carefully perform them. Make us all sensible of the great danger into which we are brought by our sins; and by thy Holy Spirit enable us to disengage ourselves from them, turning to faith and repentance. Give light, O Lord, to them that want it, and assist all to live up to that light which they have already received, that so the light that is in them may not be turned to darkness. Finally, O Lord, be merciful to all men; turn thou us, good Lord, be favourable to us, for thou art a merciful God, long-suffering, and of great pity. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive, not according to our merits, but thy mercies. Let the prayers and petitions we have now offered up be acceptable in thy sight; assist us to perform our vows, that so we may become duly qualified for the participation of that eternal happiness which thou hast promised to all those who faithfully seek to love and serve thee, believing in the name, and trusting for salvation to our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

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MONDAY MORNING.

WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

Most holy Lord, who hatest iniquity, we, thy sinful creatures, cast ourselves at thy feet, confessing our long continued course of rebellion against thee, by daily committing those things which thou hast forbidden, and leaving undone those which thou hast commanded; despising that goodness of thine which should lead us to repentance, and hardening our hearts against the means used by thee for our amendment; and now, Lord, what can we expect but our due reward, in thy wrath and our condemnation. But, O Lord, there is mercy with thee: O fit us for thy mercy, by giving us a deep and hearty repentance, and then, according to thy goodness, let thine indignation be removed from us, and, for the merit of our blessed Saviour's sufferings, pardon our sins.

Gracious God, from whom every good and perfect gift cometh, we, who are not able of ourselves so much as to think a good thought, beseech thee to work in us both to will and to do according to thy good pleasure; enlighten our minds to know thee, and may we be neither barren nor unfruitful in that knowledge. Implant in our hearts a true faith, a purifying hope, and an unfeigned love towards thee; give us zeal and reverence for all that relates to thee; grant us fear of offending thee, thankfulness for thy mercies,

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humility under corrections, devotion in thy service, sorrow for our sins: in all things behaving as befits creatures to their Creator, servants to their Lord. Enable us likewise to perform the duties owing to ourselves, always possessing our souls in meekness, patience, and contentment. Make us diligent and watchful, pure and temperate, and so moderate in our most lawful enjoyments, that they may never become a snare. May we never transgress thy royal law, of loving our neighbours as ourselves, exactly performing all parts of justice, yielding to all whatsoever, by any kind of right, is their due, and possessing such mercy and compassion, that we may never fail to do all acts of charity to all men, whether friends or enemies, according to thy holy command and example.

O blessed Lord, whose mercy is over all thy works, we entreat thee to have pity upon all men, and grant that the precious ransom, which was paid for all, may be made effectual to the salvation of all. Comfort the affliction of the distressed, administering thy grace unto their sorrows. Let thy blessing remain upon all who are dear unto us, granting them whatsoever is necessary for their souls and bodies. Reward our benefactors, and pardon our enemies, working in them and us that which may cause us to be acceptable to thy favour.

We desire to render thee our humblest praises for the mercies whereof we have so often partaken, in the outward blessings and comforts of this life; continue these bounties of thy goodness

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in such a measure as may best conduce to thy glory. Most gratefully we offer up our thanksgivings for the means of salvation offered through a crucified Redeemer. O communicate some portion of thy Spirit to our souls, that we may worthily receive this inestimable gift, becoming, in all humility and unfeigned repentance, in faith, hope, and charity, partakers of the blessings, and heirs of the kingdom purchased by the merits of our ever-blessed Redeemer, Lord, and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

PRIMER, HENRY VIII.

O Lord, who art the only and true God, gracious and merciful, thou commandest all who love thy name to cast fear and care from them, trusting all unto thee — promising most mercifully to be thyself our protector from all our enemies, our refuge in danger, our governor in the day, our light in darkness, watching continually for the preservation of the faithful. We beseech thee, O Lord, of thy bountiful goodness, to forgive all wherein we have offended this day, and to receive us under thy protection this night, that we may rest in quietness of both body and soul. Grant sleep unto our eyes, but let our hearts watch perpetually unto thee, that the weakness of the flesh offend not the Lord. Let us at all

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times feel thy goodness towards us, and our souls be stirred up within us to praise thee, late and early. At mid-day may thy praise be within our mouth, and at mid-night, Lord, instruct us in thy judgments, that all the course of our lives may be led in purity and holiness.

O Father Almighty, our defender and nourisher, endue us with thy grace, that we may cast off the great blindness of our minds in our extreme care of worldly things; make us rather put our whole study and care in keeping thy righteous laws; may we labour for our necessities in this life, like the birds of the air, without care and doubt; for thou hast promised that unto them that seek first thy kingdom and its righteousness, other gifts shall be added.

O Lord Christ, in most mighty power most meek, and in greatest excellency most lovely, give unto us thy spirit and thy mind, that through thine example, we, who have no reason to boast ourselves, may learn to be humble and meek. Our bodies are fading and frail, our minds blind and froward; whatsoever we have of our own, is imperfect; if we have any goodness, it is of thee, and not of ourselves; knowing this our feebleness, why should we magnify ourselves?

O Lord of heaven and earth, thou who art full of wonderful excellency, yet didst humble thyself to the lowest state of man, we beseech thee to grant unto us true humility; may we not presume to trust in our own worthiness, but always have thee before our eyes, committing ourselves wholly

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to thy guidance, that thou, who only knowest the way, may lead us by the same unto our heavenly desires.

We offer up our prayers for the increase of thy Church; grant us, Lord, thy word abundantly, let thy people be strengthened with thy Spirit, and the kingdom of Christ among the heathen enlarged; and in thy house may we all dwell, and be of one mind. Be thou a protector to those whom the world forsaketh, whose hearts are troubled within them, and are needy and full of misery; give them grace to withstand sin, and power to submit to thy word in all things, without impatience or murmuring. May we, who are in prosperity, give thanks unto thee, Lord God Almighty, for the blessings so plentifully bestowed upon us, beyond what is common to us with all the race of mankind. We acknowledge that all these gifts are of thy free grace bestowed upon the godly, that they may be the stewards and disposers of thy bounties, and given to the ungodly to heap up therewith their own condemnation. Wherefore, most merciful God, we humbly desire of thee to frame within us, by thy Holy Spirit, faithful hearts, and ready hands to distribute these thy gifts according to thy holy will, laying up our treasure in heaven, to our own true comfort in obtaining the reward promised to the faithful by thy mercy, and to the glory of thy name. Now to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, three persons and one God, be all honour and glory, for evermore. Amen.

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TUESDAY MORNING.

RICHELIEU.

Almighty God, the beginning of all things, we dedicate unto thy service, the commencement of a day which we desire to spend to thy glory. Remembering that thou art the author of all the benefits we receive, both spiritual and temporal, we offer up our prayers in all humility before thy throne, praising thee for the innumerable blessings bestowed upon us, and especially that thou hast been pleased to preserve us during our sleep from that death, which might have condemned our unrepenting souls to death eternal.

Good Lord, we thank thee for all that we possess; by many titles are we thine,—thy goodness created us, and thy mercy redeemed us, by the precious blood of Christ; thine are we by spiritual adoption, by daily preservation. But we desire to become thine by a voluntary surrender of our own will and affections. Lord, we offer up unto thee our souls and bodies, beseeching thee to govern us so entirely, that every action of our lives, and each thought of our hearts, may abound to the welfare of our brethren, the salvation of ourselves, and the honour and glory of our Creator.

By many sins, O Lord, have we offended thy righteousness, our past guilty lives bearing witness against us; may we be enabled to fulfil our sincere endeavours after repentance and amendment

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for the time to come; from thy grace alone proceeds the power both to will and to do that which is right; mercifully guide our intentions, and govern our actions, that our lives may become fruitful unto thee.

May our souls rely on thy grace, neither sleeping in ignorance, nor slothfully delighting in the night of sin, but open our eyes to know thee, to watch and to pray, that we may be enlightened, and follow the Sun of Righteousness unto glory eternal.

Thy loving charity commanding us to remember the welfare of our neighbours, we implore thy blessing on all mankind. May the whole earth become members of one Christian church, of which thou, Lord, art the head. We pray especially for all those in affliction of mind, body, or estate, and for those who suffer for conscience sake. Lord grant them thy deliverance from tribulation, and patience to endure unto the end. Sanctify their prosperity or adversity, their poverty or wealth, their sickness or their health, to all members of thy Church; with purity of heart may we unceasingly meditate on the salvation offered unto us, through the sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Enable us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to bear him in our hearts, crucifying our own unholy desires, perverted affections, and ungodly actions, and with devout minds to follow the example, believe in the precepts, and finally become justified by the merits

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of the great atonement. "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever." Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

HENRY.

Most holy, blessed, and glorious Lord God, whose we are, and whom we are bound to serve, as we are not our own but thine, Lord, unto thee do we lift up our souls.

Thou art the great Benefactor of the whole creation, and givest to all life and breath, and every blessing. Thou art the God that has fed and preserved us in life unto this day; through thy good providence are we met together this night, to join in praising the loving-kindness of our God, who is good, and whose mercies endure for ever. Blessed be thou, O God of our salvation, who daily loadest us with benefits. We bless thee for our health and ease, for comfort in our relations and circumstances, and for making us to live in a good land, where all dwell safely, none making us afraid. Above all, we bless thee for Jesus Christ, and his mediation between God and man; for the covenant of grace made with us in him, and all the exceeding great and precious promises and privileges of that covenant; for a throne of grace, to which we may, in his name, come with humble confidence; and for the hope of eternal life through him.

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O Lord, to us belong shame and confusion, because of our abuse of thy mercies. O cleanse thou us from our secret faults.

We commit ourselves to thee this night, desiring to dwell under the protection of the Most High, and to abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Let the Lord be our habitation, and may our souls be at rest in him. Make a hedge about us, and all that we have, permitting no evil to befall us, nor any plague to come nigh our dwelling. The Lord be our keeper, who neither slumbers nor sleeps. Lord, be thou our sun and our shield. Refresh our frail bodies with quiet and comfortable repose. Keep us from disquieting cares and fears; but especially let our souls be refreshed with thy love, and the light of thy countenance, which is better than life.

Restore us in safety to another day, and prepare us for its duties and events; and by all the delights and comforts of this life, may our souls and bodies become fitted for thy service, enabling us to glorify thee, ever remembering, that we are not our own, but bought with a price.

O that the light of all Christians may so shine before men, that others may glorify thee, our Father which art in heaven! Send forth thy truth unto every part of the earth, that kings may bow down before thee, and all nations do thee service. O Lord, save the Queen, and establish her throne in righteousness. Bless this kingdom, and give us grace at length to bring forth fruits

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meet for repentance. May this family be blessed in him, in whom all the families of the earth are blessed: blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly things by Christ Jesus, and with temporal blessings as far as thou seest good for us. Give us health and prosperity, but especially let our souls prosper, and may all that belong to us belong to Christ, that we who now live together on earth, may be for ever united together with the Lord in heaven. To him, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

BISHOP PATRICK.

O most high and mighty Lord, the possessor of heaven and earth, the angels rejoice in praising thee, the Father of spirits, for in wisdom hast thou created all things, and spread thy bounties over all thy works. We desire thankfully to acknowledge thy mercy to us amongst the rest of thy creatures, and thy especial grace and favour to us in Jesus Christ our Redeemer. O give us a deep sense of that love which gave him to die for us, that he might be the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him.

And since thou hast said, that thou wilt give thy Holy Spirit to them that ask it, O Father of mercies, let it be unto us according to thy word.

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Cherish whatsoever thou hast already given us, which may be acceptable in thy sight. And since, at the best, we are unprofitable servants, and can do no more than it is our duty to do, enable us to perform all that thou commandest heartily, with good will and true love to thy service.

O that we might ever approach thee with delight, and feel it the joy of our hearts to think of thee, to praise thee, to give thee thanks, and to offer up ourselves to thee with absolute resignation.

O that we might, like thee, be always strictly just and righteous, loving mercy even as thou lovest it! Enable us freely to forgive injuries, cheerfully deny ourselves whatever is not for thy glory, willingly submit to thy fatherly corrections, and sincerely perform the duties of our several relations, with singleness of heart. Render us so mindful of the great love of our Redeemer, that we may be zealously concerned for his glory, and use our utmost endeavours with diligence, to promote his religion in the world, delighting to commemorate his death and passion, making a joyful sacrifice of our souls and bodies to him, and earnestly desiring that his kingdom may come throughout the earth.

Permit, O Lord, that all men may be awakened into a lively and thankful sense of thy benefits. Stir up especially the mind of all Christian people to follow the truth as it is in Jesus, and exercise themselves to have a conscience void of offence

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towards God and toward man. Bless this kingdom, and endue our sovereign with such excellent wisdom and holy zeal, that we may see many good days under her government. O that true religion, justice, mercy, brotherly kindness, and all things else that are praiseworthy, may so flow rich among us, that we may enjoy the blessings of peace and plenty, and no complaining be heard in our streets.

Fulfil, most merciful Lord, these our humble petitions, so far as they are agreeable to the bountiful purposes of thy providence, and our eternal good; and as thou hast graciously protected us during our past lives, so accompany us this day with thy blessing, that we may please thee in body and soul, and be safe in thy defence, who art ever nigh unto those who call upon thee.

We recommend to thy grace all our friends and neighbours, and all the poor, the sick, and the afflicted, desiring those mercies for them which we should ask for ourselves, were we in their condition. O God, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth, keep them and us, we beseech thee, from all that is hurtful, and give us whatsoever is profitable for us, according to thine abundant mercy in Christ Jesus, in whose name we ask every mercy for ourselves and others, and in whose words we conclude our supplications unto thee, saying, "Our Father," &c.

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WEDNESDAY EVENING.

OLRENSHAW.

O Lord God of Hosts, the Almighty Creator, Preserver, and gracious Benefactor of mankind, make us sensible how much it is our privilege, as well as our duty, to approach thee. Grant that we may always account thy worship and service the most needful part of our daily business, and our most pleasant employ. Be thou the God of this family, and may we of this house serve the Lord. We thank thee for the mercies of this day, for the health and safety, and the comforts, more than we can express, which are continued to us until this hour. Suffer not the remembrance of thy mercies to vanish from our minds. Give us thankful hearts, and dispose us by thy grace, to use all our temporal blessings according to thy will and to thy glory.

We confess, O Lord, that we have sinned, and are prone to depart from thee. Our actually committed transgressions are more than can be numbered, and upon a view of our exceeding sinfulness our hearts may justly fail us. No hope have we in ourselves, no righteousness of our own actions to trust in, or to plead before thee. But, Lord, we desire to bless thee for ever, that a door of hope has been opened for us, through Jesus Christ; that he has suffered once for sin, the just

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for the unjust, to bring us to God; and that he is become the end of the law for righteousness, to every one that believeth. We bless thee, that on his account, thou canst pardon our sins, to the glory of thy justice, truth, and holiness, as well as of thy truth and mercy. Lord, grant that we may be found in Christ, not having our own righteousness! Let it be our chief care and concern, to have redemption in his blood, even the forgiveness of our sins according to the riches of his grace. May we come to Christ labouring, and heavy laden, to find relief for our souls; and do thou dispose us to take his yoke upon us, and to learn of him. O heavenly Father, renew us after his image, and enable us to follow his example. May we die unto sin, and arise again unto Christ, through faith in thy Spirit, setting our affections on spiritual, and not on earthly things. Mortify all sin within us, and suffer us not to be tempted above that we are able to bear. Make us strong in the grace of Jesus, that we may fight the good fight of faith against every spiritual enemy, and be steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Put thy fear within our hearts, that we may not depart from thee, and let it be our privilege to live a life of prayer and communion with the Father and the Son, through the Spirit, as the beginning and foretaste of heaven.

Lord, we desire to be truly penitent for the sins committed by us this day. We beseech

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thee not to enter into judgment with us, but to blot them out of thy remembrance, and to accept us in thy dear Son, to whose cross we would fly for refuge. Take us, and all belonging to us, under thy protection; let thy providential care be over us, to preserve us in our unguarded hours; keep us from all inward and outward evil, and teach us to act in our several stations conformably to thy will, and as becomes Christians.

Bless and preserve thy universal Church, we beseech thee, good Lord, and let there be added to it daily such as shall be saved. May the kingdom of thy grace, and the saving knowledge of Christ, be extended throughout the world, and greatly increase in our place and nation. Awaken and convert careless and impenitent sinners; strengthen and convert all such as seek thy face, that they may never turn back; let all thy children be taught of thee, and grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, till they become partakers of his blessedness in heaven. In this number we earnestly desire to be found, for thy mercy's sake, through the same all-sufficient and only Redeemer. Amen.

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THURSDAY MORNING.

DR LUCAS.

O holy, pure, and eternal Lord, who canst not endure iniquity; who dost so love goodness, that thou hast sent thy Son into the world to promote it,—his life and death, his pains and blood, being spent in this cause; O enable us, thy humble servants, who are named by the name of Christ, to hunger and thirst after righteousness, and to depart from iniquity. Lord, let thy truth and thy Spirit be powerful in us, to the subduing of all evil inclinations. We believe that all things are naked and bare before thee, and therefore thou canst not be mocked or imposed upon by specious pretences, or outward forms. We may not expect to appear any other in thine eyes than such as we really are in ourselves. Enable us, therefore, to confess thee in our practice as well as by words — to live like those who believe thy holy truths. Give us grace to prefer the interest of our souls to the world and the flesh, and things eternal to things temporal; that, amidst the pleasures of prosperity and peace, and the flatteries of earthly delights, we may not forget to reflect on what will be the condition of our future state; and that, amidst the manifold troubles which encompass this mortal life, we may be strengthened by the blessed hope of a better world; and, confi-

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dently believing in the soul's immortality, we may industriously lay up a good foundation for the time to come.

Most glorious God, guide us, we beseech thee, in the paths of holiness. We are purchased by the blood of thy Son; we have heard the truths of thy blessed gospel, and received it in faith. O grant that thy grace may not have been given to us in vain, that we may not suffer wreck in sight of our haven! Assist us by the might of thy Spirit in the inward man, to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord, to continue advancing to the full assurance of hope, mortifying each day more and more the outward man, and growing in all godliness and virtue; that so the nearer we approach unto eternity, the fitter for it we may be; and, our state here being a state of spiritual delight and pleasure, each day may give fresh vigour to our devotions, steadfastly advancing until we enter into the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown.

We beseech thee, most merciful Father, to enlighten our understandings, that we may know thee, and discern the loveliness and beauty of thine attributes, especially thy goodness towards the sons of men; and shed forth thy spirit of love in our hearts, that we may seek thee, and delight in thee, making it our study to contemplate and serve thee. And may the example of thy mercy towards mankind in general, and to us in particular, with the pattern of our blessed Saviour

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laying down his life for his enemies, enkindle in us such a true affection towards our neighbours, that we may love them as ourselves, or rather as Christ loved us, walking, as did the holy Jesus, in abundance of kindness, and meekness, and patience, and in all instances of an heavenly charity. Thou, who givest grace to the humble, and resistest the proud, possess us with the spirit of meekness; teach us to serve and minister to the temporal and spiritual necessities of our fellow-creatures; to obey and to suffer; to know thee our God, and ourselves also, that the sense of thy incomprehensible glory and our own meanness may level our foolish conceit, and make us despise the praise and honour of men, being content with the conscience of doing good in obedience to thee. O glorious God, it is the chief excellence of our nature to be capable of loving thee, and our best privilege to be permitted to address thee. In this we are akin to angels: in those talents which contribute only to the ends of a corporeal life, we are outdone by the brutes that perish. O, therefore, give us grace to dwell, as often as we can, in contemplation of thy divine nature — to look forward to that glory which thy bounty hath promised and revealed — to consider by what methods of infinite love thou dost prepare us for it,—and let all this make us love thee, and desire to know nothing but thee, our heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ, and him crucified. Amen.

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THURSDAY EVENING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Eternal God, Almighty Father of men and angels, by whose care and providence we are preserved and blessed, comforted and assisted, we humbly beg of thee to pardon the sins and follies of our lives, the weaknesses of our services, the rashness of our words, and the vanity and evil of our actions. O God, how long shall we confess our sins, and pray against them, and yet continue to commit them? O let it be so no more. Let us never return to the follies of which we are ashamed, which bring sorrow and death, and thy displeasure, which is worse than death. Give us a command over our evil inclinations, together with a perfect hatred of sin, and a love to thee above all the desires of this world. Be pleased to bless and preserve us this night from all sin, from unforeseen accidents, and from malicious wickedness. Watch over us in our sleep, and, whether we sleep or wake, let us be thy servants. Be thou the first and last in all our thoughts, and the guide and continual assistance of all our actions. Preserve our bodies; pardon the sin of our souls; and sanctify our spirits; let us always live holily, and justly, and soberly.

Let thy good Spirit govern all our words and actions, our thoughts and designs, and grant us so perfectly to obey thy commandments, that we

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may, by holy habits and a constant performance of our duty, wait for the coming of our Lord, and be ready to enter with him at whatsoever hour he shall come.

Be merciful to us in the day of our calamity and thy visitation. Strengthen our faith in the day of our sicknesses and trials, when the cloud is thick, and the storm great; that we may rely upon thy grace, supplicate thy mercies, hope in thy goodness, and receive the end of our hopes — the salvation of our souls. Let us never descend into the dwellings of the wicked, nor into the place of them that know not God; but be pleased here to guide us with thy counsel, that hereafter we may be received into thy glory.

Visit, we beseech thee, good Lord, this habitation with thy mercy, and ourselves with thy grace and salvation. Let thy holy angels encompass us round about and dwell here, and the eternal Spirit of the Father fill our whole hearts with light and grace.

Take from us all forwardness and turbulence of spirit, all ambition and private interests; remove from us all prejudice and weakness of persuasion, that we may wholly resign our understandings to the dictates of Christianity, acknowledging thee to be the principle of truth, thy word the measure of knowledge, thy laws the rule of our life, thy promises the satisfaction of our hopes, and thy acceptance of us the consummation of bliss.

And that thy Gospel may be universally prevalent, remove, we beseech thee, every obstacle

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to its success. Defend those with thy mercy whom thou hast adorned with thy power, advance the just interests of all Christian kings, princes, and states. Give unto all them that serve thee in the ministries of true religion, wisdom and holiness, zeal and abilities, to diffuse the blessings of the Gospel, and to promote the present and future interests of mankind.

We bless thy holy name, not only for the spiritual blessings with which thou hast blessed us in Christ Jesus, but for all the other instances of thy goodness, and especially that thou hast preserved us from the destruction that walketh at noon, and the arrow that flieth by day. Blessed and for ever hallowed be thy name, for that never ceasing shower of blessings by which we live and are content, and comforted and provided for, and set forward in our duty to heaven. "Blessing, honour, glory, and power be unto him that sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb for ever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

ST BASIL.

O eternal Lord God, Father Almighty, maker of all things in heaven and earth, it is a good thing to give thanks to thee, and to pay to thee all reverence, worship, and devotion, from a clean and prepared heart, and with an humble spirit to present a living and reasonable sacrifice to thy holiness and majesty; for thou hast given unto

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us the knowledge of thy truth, and who is able to declare thy greatness, and to recount all thy marvellous works, which thou hast done in all generations of the world?

O great Lord and Governor of all things, Lord and Creator of all visible or invisible, who sittest upon the throne of thy glory, and beholdest the secrets of the lowest abyss and darkness; thou art without beginning, uncircumscribed, incomprehensible, unalterable, and for ever unalterable in thy own essential happiness. Thou art the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is our dearest and most gracious Saviour, our hope, the wisdom of the Father, the image of thy goodness, the word eternal, and the brightness of thy person; the power of God from eternal ages, the true light that lighteneth every man that cometh into the world, the redemption of man, and the sanctification of our spirits; by whom the Holy Ghost descended upon the Church, the holy Spirit of truth, the seal of adoption, the earnest of the inheritance of the saints, the first fruits of everlasting felicity, the life-giving power, the fountain of sanctification, the comfort of the Church, the ease of the afflicted, the support of the weak, the wealth of the poor, the teacher of the doubtful, and scrupulous, and ignorant, the anchor of the fearful, the infinite reward of all faithful souls; by whom all reasonable creatures serve thee, and send up a never ceasing and never rejected sacrifice of prayer, and praises, and adoration.

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All angels and archangels, all thrones and dominions, all principalities and powers, the cherubims with many eyes, and the seraphims covered with wings, from the terror and amazement of thy brightest glory, — these, and all the powers of heaven, do perpetually sing praises, and never ceasing hymns, and eternal anthems to the glory of the eternal God, the Almighty Father of men and angels.

Holy is our God, holy is the Almighty, holy is the Immortal,—holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory. With these blessed spirits, we also, thy servants, O thou great lover of souls, though we be unworthy to offer up praises to such a Majesty, yet out of our bounden duty, humbly offer up our heart and voice to join in this blessed choir, and confess the glories of the Lord. For thou art holy, and of thy goodness there is no end; and in thy justice and goodness thou hast measured out to us all thy works. O that men would, therefore, praise the Lord for his goodness, and declare the wonders that he hath done for the children of men.

Thou art our Creator and our Father, our protector and guardian. Thou hast clothed us and fed us; given us friends, and blessed them; given us many days of comfort and health. Thou hast defended us hitherto; and when we had trespassed against thee, thou didst send a Saviour to work out for us a great salvation. He took on

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himself our infirmities, and bore our sorrows, and suffered and died in our stead. O that our hearts may be stirred up to praise and magnify thy name for all these mercies. May they dwell within us all the day long, and constrain us to walk in love, honouring thee by a life and conversation becoming the Gospel.

O Father of mercy, be ever present with us thy unworthy children, thy wisdom directing, and thy strength upholding us in all our worldly occupations; watching over and defending us from danger, supplying all our wants, rescuing us from temptations, and giving us to know the joys of salvation, by the free gift of thy Spirit, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

REV. W. JAY.

O God, the King of glory, we desire to approach thee with reverence and godly fear, to adore thy perfections, and to admire thy works, which are sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. The heaven is thine; the earth also is thine; the world and the fulness thereof. Thy wisdom manages all its concerns, ruling over nations, families, and individuals, and numbering the very hairs of our heads. The eyes of all wait upon thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand and satisfiest the desires of every living thing.

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Thy name is most excellent in all the earth, and thou hast set thy glory above the heavens. Thy compassion fails not, and therefore are we not consumed. We are filled with wonder at thy condescension, in noticing us, thy sinful creatures, and providing for our deliverance. We can never sufficiently bless thee, that we were born in a Christian country where the true light shineth, and can hear the words whereby we may be saved. We bless thee, that thou hast not spared thine own Son, but delivered him up for us all; and that in him all fulness dwells. In his beloved name we come before thee, entreating thee for his sake to be merciful to us, that we may be redeemed. Grant unto us justification by his blood, and admission unto that grace, wherein we shall stand, rejoicing in hope of the glory of God. May thy image be stamped upon our souls in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness: and thy Holy Spirit dwell in our hearts, leading us unto all truth, enabling us to walk in all thy commandments blameless, and fruitful in every good work.

Raise us above the world, considering it a light thing to be judged of man's judgment. Keep us from, or preserve us during the hour of temptation; may we abhor and avoid whatever would grieve thy Holy Spirit, and cause thee to hide thy face from us. Preserve us from having any fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness; enable us in meekness to instruct those who

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oppose themselves, and make us gentle and patient towards all. Cause us to be not only professors of the Gospel, but examples to others, displaying in every condition and office of life the excellence of religion, putting to silence the ignorance of foolish men, and even constraining them to glorify God in the day of visitation.

Good Lord, we desire to feel a tender concern for the welfare of others, and to spread before thee their wants as well as our own; we entreat thee to provide support and employment for the poor, make the widow's heart to sing for joy, and in thee may the fatherless find mercy. Visit those who are on beds of sickness, and prepare them for thy good pleasure; that if they live in the world it may be to serve thee, and if they die to this world, it may be to live in thy presence. Bless the Queen as supreme, may righteousness and peace be the stability of her times, and the subjects over whom she reigns a happy people, whose God is the Lord. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion, build thou the walls of Jerusalem, and may all our churches, like the first disciples, continue in the doctrine of Christ, and in breaking of bread, and in prayer.

Forgive us the imperfections, omissions, and sins of another day, and make us thankful for the continuance of our numberless blessings. Lord, we address thee, relying in the merits, and trusting to the mercy of our Redeemer, in whose words we conclude our petitions, — "Our Father," &c.

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SATURDAY MORNING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O holy and eternal God, Maker of all things, and King of all the world, who hast implanted in all the sons of creation instinct and ability to serve the end of their formation, and to man hast superadded reason, that he might know and glorify thy will; we, thy unworthy servants, in conformity to the gift bestowed upon us, do now offer up our acknowledgments for all thy mercies, and confess with shame, that instead of being entitled to any of them, we rather deserve the utmost of thy wrath; and if thou hadst dealt with us according to our sinful deservings, we had now, at this instant, been desperately bewailing our miseries, in the sorrows and horrors of a wretched eternity. But thy mercy triumphing over thy justice and our sins, thou hast still continued to us life, and time for repentance: thou hast opened to us the gates of grace and mercy, and perpetually callest upon us to enter in, and to walk in the paths of a holy life, that we might glorify thee, and be glorified of thee, eternally.

And that redemption may not be offered, and salvation preached unto us in vain, so direct us, we beseech thee, amongst all the changes and varieties of this world, that we may have an evenness and tranquillity of spirit, that our souls

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may be wholly resigned to thy will, never murmuring at thy gentle chastisements and fatherly correction, never waxing proud and insolent, though we be enriched by abundance and elevated by success.

Lord, let us be as constant in the ways of religion, as the sun in his course; as ready to follow the intimations of thy Spirit, as are the birds of the air to obey the directions of thy Providence, and the conduct of thy hand. Let us never by evil customs, vain company, or false persuasions, extinguish those principles of morality and right reason which thou hast imprinted in our understanding, and which thou hast ennobled by thy best and greatest gift, the Gospel of thy dear Son: may we live according to the rules of nature in such things which she teaches, modestly, temperately, and affectionately, in all the parts of our natural and civil relations, and, proceeding from nature to grace, may we henceforth grow from grace to glory.

But whilst we supplicate the assistance of thy Spirit that we may live as rational creatures, as creatures endowed with understanding to discern, and conscience to feel, the difference between good and evil, we beseech thee, O Lord, to impress our hearts with a sense of the love and mercy expressed in the agony which our blessed Redeemer underwent to obtain the salvation of a world of sinners. In the conviction of such loving-kindness, we pray for humble and contrite spirits, that we

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may not be thought unworthy of the effects of such unutterable love. Pity us, O Lord; turn thy merciful eyes towards us, most merciful Redeemer; only speak the word, and we shall be whole.

Grant us to have perpetually present to our minds, the excellency of thy love, the merits of thy sacrifice, and the bitterness of thy passion. Man, we know, doth not live by bread alone, but by thy heavenly word and doctrine. Lord, let us ever hunger and thirst after such divine food; that, imitating thy virtues, we may dwell in the pleasures of thy kingdom. May thy holy word be unto us both life and health, a means of sanctification and spiritual growth; so being united to thee by the bonds of a strong faith, an holy hope, and a never failing charity, we may pass from receiving thy word to beholding thy face in the glories of immortality. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

REV. J. SWETE.

O Almighty God, who art glorious in justice and holiness, and art exalted far above all blessing and praise, how unsearchable are the riches of thy grace, which thou hast manifested in opening a way for lost sinners to approach thee, and to take thy name within their lips.

Thou hast sent thy incarnate Son to seek and to save the guilty, and thou hast revealed thyself

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in him as a just God, and yet the justifier of the believer in Jesus—a just God, and yet a Saviour. O Lord, we fall as sinners at the footstool of thy sovereign mercy. We renounce all dependence on any merits of our own. We plead thy promises, and offer before thee no other sacrifice or righteousness but the all-sufficient sacrifice and spotless righteousness of thy beloved Son, in whom thou art ever well pleased.

O thou Holy Spirit! whose office it is to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, discover unto us the pride of our nature, and the enmity of our hearts to God; and take of the things of Christ and shew them to us. Cause us to renounce our own wisdom and righteousness, and to be willing to receive pardon and the hope of eternal life, as the gift of free grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Renew our sinful hearts, mortify our corrupt desires, and set our affections supremely on things above. Enable us continually to reflect on the shortness and uncertainty of time, and the awful length of eternity. O strengthen our faith and animate our hope, that we may meet death with composure, yea, embrace it with joy.

While passing through this wilderness, we would look up to thee daily, as our heavenly Shepherd; and though we have often erred and strayed from thy fold, yet we now desire again to return unto thee. O may we hear thy voice and follow thee; may we feed on thy precious

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promises — drink of the waters of life — be supported by thy grace, and enjoy thy favour; and if thou seest it necessary to visit us with diseases, disappointments, or crosses of any other kind, give us patience and submission to thy will.

With humble and hearty thanks for thy goodness and mercy, which have followed us throughout our days, we implore thy gracious protection during the dark and silent watches of the night. O thou Keeper of Israel, who never slumberest nor sleepest, be thou about our path and about our bed; defend us from all dangers, refresh our bodies with sleep; and if thy Almighty Providence should spare us to behold the light of the returning sun, may we arise with thanksgivings on our lips, remembering that the day is the Sabbath of the Lord. O may our hearts be solemnized, and may we rejoice and be glad in the day which the Lord has made. Be especially present with thy ministering servants on the morrow; may they go forth in the fulness of the blessing of Christ's Gospel, preaching peace through the blood of the Cross; and may the word of thy grace drop as the rain that watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, accomplishing thy good pleasure, and prospering wheresoever thou dost send it. All these mercies we ask for the sake and through the intercession of our only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom, in the unity of the Father and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

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PRAYERS

IN

TIMES OF AFFLICTION.

FOR A FAMILY UNDER TEMPORAL DISTRESS.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O God and Father, in vain do we beg to have thy heavy hand taken from us as long as the cause remains. Our sins, O Lord, our sins are so great, so numerous, so intolerable, that we must needs with shame hide our faces, and confess we have deserved all the evil that we suffer. We have, O God, more for which to give thee thanks, than to deplore. It is of thy infinite mercy that we are yet kept from feeling thy severest judgments. It is of thy mercy that we have our senses and our understandings — that we are permitted the use of thy word and sacraments — that we have not intolerable pains of body, and grievous troubles in our minds. It is of thy blessing that we have bread — that we possess any friends — that we have the prayers of thy faithful servants — that we have faith in

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thee, and also hope. It is of thy infinite mercy that we are yet kept from the insufferable pains of hell, and are permitted to pray to thee — to rely upon thy mercies — to work out our salvation — and to expect thy loving-kindness in the land of the living.

All the evils that we suffer we have deserved, but nothing of thy good have we deserved. We are less than the least of all thy mercies, and our sins are greater than the greatest of all our sufferings. And now, O Lord, who hast dealt so graciously to us hitherto, be pleased also to proceed in the methods of thy mercy, and make our present sufferings instrumental of thy glory — of the pardon of our sins — of the sanctification of our spirits — of the humiliation of our souls, that, like silver tried in the fire, we may come forth purer vessels of honour, pleasing and acceptable to thee in Jesus Christ.

We know, O God, that thou art infinitely wise, and infinitely good, and thou disposest all the events of thy creatures to excellent purposes, and delightest to bring good out of evil. Behold, O God, we are thy servants and thy creatures; do to us as seemeth good in thine eyes; only give us patience and a long-suffering spirit, that we may not murmur secretly when we dare not complain openly; but may we, with a quiet spirit, expect and wait for the time of our redemption: and be thou pleased to give us a light from heaven, that, with the eye of faith, we may see beyond the cloud,

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and look for those comforts which thou dost prepare for those that love and trust in their God.

O Lord, thou hast often eased our calamities, and taken off thy severe hand. Thou hast supported our spirits in the day of our sorrow, and hast given us many intervals and spaces of refreshment, and renewest thy loving-kindness day by day. O let us never have our portion among the hopeless and the desperate. Thou hast commanded us to hope, and we do hope that these comforts shall refresh our souls — that thy mercies will support us under our affliction — that thy Spirit shall sustain us in it, and thy grace and glorious providence shall speedily deliver us from it.

And now, O most merciful Father, let our petitions enter into thy presence. Thine arrows stick fast in us, and thy hand presseth upon us sore. Open the treasure of thy mercies, and thence let comfort and refreshment descend upon thy servants. Put a period to our sorrows, but first put a stop to our sins. Let us never charge thee foolishly, nor behave peevishly towards others, but use all the means we can to ease their sorrows, to lighten their burdens, to sweeten their lives, that so we may expect from thy goodness a more abundant measure of loving-kindness.

O Lord, put a bar and stop to our passions; make them to be humble ministers of religion and prudent government. Never let us suffer any

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violent transports in ourselves, nor be provoked to any bitterness — nor be harsh or cruel towards any — nor put too much upon any temporal interest. In all things let us behold thy providence, and reverence thy justice, and adore thy majesty, and feel thy mercy, and obey thy Spirit. Let not our own follies be our scourges, lest we sin against thee, and lose thy blessing for ever.

Be pleased, O God, to add this favour unto thy servants, that our trouble may not be doubled or increased by our own infirmities. Take from us all perplexing fancies and too quick apprehensions of our sorrows. Blessed be thy name, they are finite, and they are temporal sorrows; they are less than our sins, and they are less than thy mercies. Give us grace to despise the world and all its interests and possessions, that while we set not our affections on them, we may not be too much afflicted when we are crossed in them; but let our chief care be to please thee, our greatest fears lest we should sin against thee; let our duty be our employment, thy providence our portion, thy Spirit our guide, thy law our rule: that when this cloud is passed over, we may see the brightness of thy face, and perpetual showers of grace and mercy refreshing our sad and weary spirits; so shall thy servants sing praises to the honour of thy name, when thou shalt have saved our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. Grant these mercies, O blessed Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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IN TIMES OF PUBLIC CALAMITY.

WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongeth, we desire humbly to confess before thee, both on our own behalf, and that of this nation, that these calamities under which we groan are but the just, yea mild, returns of those many more years of our provocations against thee, and that thy present wrath is but the due punishment of thy abused mercy. O Lord, thou hast formerly abounded to us in blessings above all the people of the earth. Thy sun shone upon our heads, and we delighted ourselves in thy great goodness; peace was within thy walls, and plenteousness within our palaces; there was no decay, no leading into captivity, and no complaining in our streets; but we turned this grace into wantonness, we abused our peace to security, our plenty to luxury, and made those things which should have endeared our hearts to thee, the occasion of estranging them from thee. Nay, O Lord, thou gavest us yet more precious mercies, thou wert pleased to pitch thy Tabernacle with us, to establish a pure and glorious Church, and to give us thy word to be a light unto our feet, and a lamp unto our paths; but, O Lord, we have made no other use of this light than to conduct us to the chambers of death; we have dealt proudly, and

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not hearkened to thy commandments, and by rebelling against the light, have purchased to ourselves so much the heavier portion in the outer darkness. And now, O Lord, had the overflowings of thy vengeance been answerable to that of our sin, we had long since been swept away with a swift destruction. But thou art a gracious God, and hast proceeded with much patience towards us, sending thy judgments to awaken us to repentance, and allowing us also space for it. But, alas! we pervert this thy mercy, we return not to him that smiteth us, neither do we seek the Lord. We do, indeed, fear the rod,—we dread every suffering, and are ready to buy it off with the foulest sin; but we fear not him that smiteth us, but rather in wretched obstinacy harden our hearts against thee, O Lord. Thou hast pronounced, there is no peace for the wicked, and how shall we then pray for peace, and yet retain our wickedness. Lord, thou hast long spoken by thy word to our ears, by thy judgments to all our senses; but unless thou speakest by thy Spirit to our hearts, all other calls will still be ineffectual. O send out thy voice, and that a mighty voice, such as may awake us out of this lethargy: thou that didst call Lazarus from the grave, O be pleased to call us who are dead in trespasses and sins, and awaken us unto righteousness. And though, Lord, our frequent resistances even of these inward calls, have justly provoked thee to give us up to our own hearts; yet, O thou

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boundless ocean of goodness, who art merciful beyond what we can deserve or even wish, do not withdraw the influence of thy grace, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Lord, help us or we perish, and consider not so much our unworthiness of thy aid, as our irremediable ruin, if we do not obtain it. To this end, bestow upon us in our temporal interests what may best secure our spiritual welfare; if a greater degree of outward will tend to the curing of our inward misery, Lord, spare not thy rod, but strike yet more sharply. But if thou seest that some return of mercy may be most likely to melt us, O be pleased so far to condescend to our wretchedness as to afford it to us, and whether by thy gentler or thy sharper methods, to bring us home to thyself. Lord, we know thy hand is not shortened that it cannot save; when thou hast delivered us from our sins, thou canst and wilt deliver us from our troubles. O shew us thy mercy, and grant us thy salvation, that being redeemed both in our bodies and spirits, we may glorify thee in both by a cheerful obedience, and praise the name of our God that hath dealt mercifully with us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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DURING THE PREVALENCE OF A PESTILENTIAL EPIDEMIC.

CERTAIN PRAYERS, &c. LONDON, 1603.

O Almighty, most just, and merciful God, we here acknowledge ourselves most unworthy to lift up our eyes unto heaven, for our consciences accuse and our sins do reprove us. We know also that thou, Lord, being a just Judge, must needs punish the transgressions of those who break thy laws: when we consider and examine our past lives, we find nothing in ourselves deserving of any other thing than eternal condemnation. But because thou, O Lord, of thy unspeakable mercy hast commanded us, in all our necessities, to call upon thee; and hast also promised that thou wilt hear our prayers, not for any desert which is in us, but for the merits of thy Son our only Saviour, whom thou hast ordained to be our only mediator and intercessor; we put away all confidence in man, and flee to the throne of thy mercy, by the intercession of thy only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

And first of all, we do most lament and bewail, from the bottom of our hearts, our unkindness and unthankfulness towards thee our Lord; considering that, besides those thy benefits which we enjoy as thy creatures in common with all mankind, thou hast bestowed many and singular special benefits upon us, which we are not able in heart to conceive,

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much less in words worthily to express. Thou hast delivered us from the hard bondage of Satan. Thou hast released us from idolatry, and brought us into the most clear and comfortable light of thy blessed word, by the which we are taught how to serve and honour thee, and how to live soberly with our neighbours in truth and verity. But we, most unmindful in times of prosperity of these thy great benefits, have neglected thy commandments, have abused the knowledge of thy Gospel, have followed our carnal liberty, and throughout our sinful lives have not worshipped thee as we ought.

And now, O Lord, being even compelled with thy correction, we do most humbly confess that we have sinned and most grievously offended thee by many and sundry ways. And if thou, O Lord, wouldst deal with us as we have deserved, there remains nothing else to be looked for, but universal and continual plagues in this world, and hereafter eternal death and damnation, both of our souls and bodies. For if we should excuse ourselves, our own consciences would condemn us, and our disobedient weakness bear witness against us. Yea, even these thy plagues and punishments now open upon us, do teach us to acknowledge our sins. For seeing, O Lord, that thou art just, thou punishest no people without desert. We see thy hand terribly stretched out to plague us, yet if thou shouldst afflict us yet more grievously, we could not deny but we had justly deserved the same.

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O Lord, thou art our God, and we nothing but dust and ashes; thou art our Creator, and we the work of thy hands; thou art our Pastor, we thy flock; thou art our Redeemer, and we thy people redeemed. Wherefore punish us not in thine anger, but chasten us in thy mercy. Thy people Israel oftentimes offended, and thou most justly afflicted them; but, as oft as they returned, thou didst receive them to mercy. Thou hast made a covenant with us of the highest efficacy and excellency, through the mediation of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour. O heavenly Father, we now, casting away all confidence in ourselves, or any other creature, do flee to this most holy covenant and testament, wherein our Lord and Saviour once offered himself a sacrifice for us on the cross, and hath reconciled us to thee for ever. Look, therefore, O merciful God, not upon the sins which we continually commit, but upon our Mediator and Peace-maker, Jesus Christ, that, by his intercession, thy wrath may be pacified, and we again, by thy fatherly countenance, relieved and comforted. Receive us also into thy heavenly defence, and govern us, by thy Holy Spirit, to frame in us a newness of life, therein to laud and magnify thy blessed name for ever, and to live, every one of us, according to the several states of life whereunto thou, Lord, hast ordained us, in godly fear and trembling before thee.

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And although we are unworthy, by means of our former evil life, to crave any thing of thee, yet, because thou hast commanded us to pray for all men, we most humbly, here upon our knees, beseech thee to save and defend thy holy Church. Increase the number of godly ministers; endue them with thy grace to be found faithful and prudent in their office. Be merciful, O Lord, to all commonweals, countries, princes, and magistrates, and especially to this our realm, and to our most gracious Queen and governor. Defend her majesty's council, and all that be in authority under her, or that serve in any place by her commandment, for this realm.

We commend also to thy fatherly mercy all those that be in poverty, exile, imprisonment, sickness, or any other adversity, and those whom thy hand hath now touched with any contagious or dangerous sickness, which we beseech thee, O Lord, of thy mercy, and when thy blessed will is, to remove from us; and, in the meantime, grant us grace and true repentance, steadfast faith and constant patience, that, whether we live or die, we may always continue thine, and ever praise thy holy name, and, by thy great mercy, be partakers of grace in this life, and eternal glory in the life to come. Grant these, and all other our humble petitions, O merciful Father, for thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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WHEN ANY ACCIDENT HAS BEFALLEN ONE OF THE FAMILY.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O most gracious Father, Lord of heaven and earth, Judge of the living and the dead, behold thy servants praying unto thee for pity and mercy in behalf of ourselves and this thy servant, whom thou hast smitten with thy hasty rod, and a swift angel. If it be thy will, preserve *his* life, that there may be place for *his* repentance and restitution. O spare *him* a little, that *he* may recover *his* strength before *he* go hence, and be no more seen. But if thou hast otherwise decreed, let the miracles of thy compassion, and thy wonderful mercy, supply to *him* the want of the usual measures of time, and the periods of repentance, and the trimming of *his* lamp; and let the greatness of the calamity be accepted by thee as an instrument to procure pardon for those degrees and defects of unreadiness which may have caused this accident upon thy servant. Lord, stir up in *him* a great and effectual contrition, that the greatness of *his* sorrow and hatred against sin, and the zeal of *his* love towards thee, may, in a short time, do the work of many days. And thou, who regardest the heart, and the measures of the mind, more than the delay and the measures of time, let it be thy pleasure to rescue the soul of thy servant

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from all the evils *he* hath deserved, and all the evils *he* fears; that, in the glories of eternity, and the songs which, to eternal ages, thy saints and holy angels shall sing to the honour of thy mighty name and invaluable mercies, it may be reckoned among thy glories that thou hast redeemed this soul from the dangers of an eternal death, and made *him* partaker of the gift of God, eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOR A SICK PERSON.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O Almighty and most gracious Father, who art the fountain of life, and health, and pardon, hear the prayers of thy servants, of the miserable for the afflicted, of sinners for *him* whom thou hast smitten. Lord, lay no more upon *him* than thou shalt enable *him* to bear, but give *him* patience, and do thou thyself open a door for *his* escape, even by a holy and reformed life, and a speedy recovery, or else by a blessed death, as thou, in thy infinite loving-kindness, shalt choose for thy glory, and his eternal interest.

Thou, who alone hast power to forgive sins, and to rescue erring souls from the power of sin and the wrath of God, be gracious to thy servant, who confesses thy justice in *his* suffering, and begs to feel thy mercy in *his* pardon, and thy pity in *his* ease and restitution. Reject not *him* who begs

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for remission of sins, and remission of thy anger; remember not the follies of *his* childhood, nor the vanities of *his* youth, the sins of *his* tongue, nor the offences of his anger; nor the innumerable breaches of charity, the infinite omissions of duty, and the inexcusable actions of *his* choice. Thou hast glorified thyself in all generations of the world, by giving pardon to the penitent and ease to the afflicted, comfort to the comfortless and refreshment to the weary. Behold, O God, the sorrows of thy servant, and remember *his* sins no more. Behold the passion and the pains which our blessed Lord suffered for our sins, and spare thy servant in thy anger, and remember *him* in thy mercy, and pity *him* in thy infinite compassion, and relieve *him* with mighty grace, and deliver *him* from his sins, and bring *him* to thy glory.

Most blessed Saviour, who didst suffer with meekness and patience those severe stripes of thy Father's wrath, which we did deserve, but thou didst feel; and hast established with mankind a covenant of faith and patience, a law of sufferings, making the way of the Cross to be the way to heaven; give to thy servant thy grace, that, according to thy excellent example and holy commandment, *he* may bear the burden of the Lord with an even and a willing, an obedient and a loving spirit. Let *him* never charge thee foolishly, nor murmur secretly, nor make too much haste; but, with faith and hope, submit *his* body and

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soul to thy merciful and just dispensation, that *he* may not discompose the duties of *his* repentance by renewed sin, nor provoke thee to anger by impatience, nor offend them who charitably minister to *him*, nor neglect the doing of any thing that can be in *his* power, or *his* duty to *his* body or soul. Be merciful unto thy servant, and remember that we are but flesh and vanity. Give *him* ease and rest, a quiet mind, and a peaceful conscience: make thou *his* bed in all *his* sickness, and deliver *him* not unto the will of *his* spiritual enemies.

O let not thy fierce anger go beyond a fatherly correction: let this rod be discipline, not vengeance; let it kill the sin, and not the person; but in judgment remember mercy. Take from thy servant all inordinate fear; give *him* a present mind, a hopeful spirit, a faithful heart, a perfectly repenting conscience, a charitable and devout soul. Take from *him* the fear and the sentence of death; preserve *his* life, and restore *his* health, if that be best for *him*; for to thy power we submit, on thy goodness we depend, by thy wisdom we desire to be governed, and on thy love we rest our choice. O grant to this thy servant the comforts of a holy hope, and the strength of an unconquerable faith, the constancy of an unmoved patience, and the meekness of a perfect resignation; that to *him* to live may be Christ, and to die may be gain; that, whether *he* lives or dies, *he* may be thine, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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ON THE DEATH OF A PIOUS MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

REV. THOMAS ROGERS.

O Lord God Almighty, who governest all things by thy infinite wisdom and power, and in whose hands are the issues of life and death; help us to approach thee in deep self-abasement, and humble submission to thy divine will. We acknowledge our dependence upon thee for life, and breath, and all things we enjoy; thy tender mercies are over all thy works: thou openest thy hand, and fillest all things living with plenteousness. O fill our hearts with a lasting sense of our manifold obligations to thee, for the manifestations of thy unmerited goodness towards us; and unite all the powers of our minds in expressing our gratitude and thankfulness.

O merciful God, for the sake of thy dear Son, give us true repentance for what we have done amiss, pardon all our omissions of duty towards thee, and blot out all our transgressions, and by thy free Spirit establish us in holiness and newness of life. Give us to see and feel the necessity and importance of improving this our day of grace, for the time of our probation is short. "For what is our life?" "It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." O Lord, thou condescendest to admonish us of our mortality, not only by the declarations of thy

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word, but in the awful and wise dispensations of thy providence. Thou sometimes seest it necessary to loosen the strings which have contributed to the union and harmony of our domestic happiness. And though in these proceedings, clouds and darkness are often round about thee, yet we would firmly believe, that righteousness and judgment are the habitation of thy throne. Thou hast been pleased to remove from us one that has been long dear to us, on account of *his* [or *her*] benevolent feelings, and Christian love and affection, habitually manifested towards all with whom *he* was connected. Though we feel our loss, and cannot but mourn under this dispensation, yet we would not sorrow as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. We would praise and adore thee for the communications of thy directing and sanctifying grace to our departed friend during *his* past life, but particularly for the spiritual refreshments from thy presence at the approach of dissolution.

We saw and witnessed the blessing of dying in the Lord. O that the religious impressions we then felt, and do yet feel, may be lasting and beneficial to our souls! May we determine, through grace, to unite ourselves with those that fear thy name, and study to perfect holiness in thy fear. If we have hitherto been regardless of our spiritual interests, having never considered the

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salvation of our souls as the one thing needful, enable us now to make a willing and unfeigned surrender of ourselves to thy disposal. Give us grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and to realize, by faith, the important concerns of eternity. Suffer us no longer to run in the broad path which leadeth to destruction, but direct us into that narrow way which leadeth into everlasting life. To this end create in us clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within us. May this visitation of thy providence be the sanctified means of awakening our conscience, of weaning us from the present evil world, and affixing our devout attention on things above. May we ever remember, with a proper feeling, that there is an appointed time for man upon earth, that his days are numbered, that he is but dust.

But if it hath pleased thee, of thy goodness and mercy, to begin a good work in any of our hearts, as we trust thou hast, may our present bereavement of temporal comfort be blessed to the increase of our spiritual consolation. Leave us not to ourselves, neither take thy Holy Spirit from us, notwithstanding our frequent infirmities, but carry on thy work with power in our souls until the day of Jesus Christ. May we ever consider ourselves as dying creatures, as having no continuing city here; and be daily looking and preparing for that approaching moment, when the earthly house of our tabernacle shall be dissolved, and we shall

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enter that building of God, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Help us to discharge all the relative duties of life with a view to thy glory; may we be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; that being enabled so to pass through things temporal, as finally not to lose the things that are eternal, we may die the death of the righteous, and our last end may be like his. These, and every other blessing that may be the means of promoting thy glory, the spiritual welfare of our souls, and the good of thy Church and people, we humbly beg in the name and through the mediation of thy dear Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOR A SICK CHILD.

REV. B. JENKS.

O God of the spirits of all flesh, the only Giver and Preserver of life, the smallest, as well as the greatest, are thy work and thy care; though thou art so great, yet thou despisest not any. Gracious Lord, let thy thoughts be full of pity, and compassion, and tender mercy, to this poor sick child, for whose affliction we are now concerned; and send *him* that relief and comfort from above which none of us are able to give. Either lighten the load, or increase the strength to bear it; and deal gently and graciously with *him*, good Lord, beyond what we are worthy to ask at thy hands, even

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for thy own goodness and mercy sake. Spare *him*, O Father of mercies, and grant *him* ease, and release *him* from *his* trouble, yea, make haste to deliver *him*, we beseech thee; and in submission to thy will, we beg the recovery of *his* health and the continuance of *his* life, that *he* may do thee service and bring thee glory in this present world: But forasmuch as children are shapen in sin and born in iniquity, and are therefore subject to death, (which reigns even over them that have not sinned after the manner of Adam's transgression,) if thou art pleased, O Lord, to take *him* away thus early, O let it be in mercy; and prepare *him* for thyself, that it may be to *him* the greatest gain to die; that *he* may not only be delivered from the dangers and miseries of this world, and of that which is to come, but, by the quickest improvement, may be perfected in knowledge and grace, and be made ripe and ready for heaven and eternal glory. Hear us, O merciful God and Father, through the merits and intercession of thy beloved Son, our compassionate Saviour, who, in infinite condescension, embraced and blessed young children, and who ever lives at thy right hand to intercede for young and old—the only prevailing Advocate for us all. To thy mercy in him, O most gracious God, we commend this afflicted child, beseeching thee to deal well with *him*; and, out of the riches of thy grace, provide for *him* as thou seest best, in life and death, and for evermore. Amen.

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BEFORE A FUNERAL.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of the just made perfect, grant to us, thy servants, that we may die to sin, and live to righteousness — living a holy and religious life, peaceable and blessed; that, when we have served thee in our generations, we may die the death of the righteous, leaving a good name and a fair example behind, and our good works may follow us; that, being holy in our lives, we may be blessed in our deaths, and, with this thy servant, and all others departed in thy fear and love, may lie in the bosom of our Lord, till, by the voice of the archangel, we shall be awakened in the resurrection of the just, to live with thee in thy kingdom.

We adore thy Majesty, and submit to thy providence, and revere thy justice, and magnify thy mercies, that it hath pleased thee to deliver this our *brother* out of the miseries of this sinful world. Thy counsels are secret, and thy wisdom infinite. With the same hand thou hast crowned *him*, and smitten us. Thou hast taken *him* into regions of felicity, and placed *him* among the saints and angels, and left us to mourn for our sins and thy displeasure. Lord, turn thy anger into mercy — thy chastisements into virtues —

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thy rod into comforts; and do thou give to all *his* nearest relatives comforts from heaven, and a restitution of blessings equal to those which thou hast taken from them. And we humbly beseech thee, of thy gracious goodness, shortly to satisfy the longing desires of those holy souls who pray, and wait, and long for thy second coming. Accomplish thou the number of thine elect, and fill up the mansions in heaven, which are prepared for all them that love the coming of the Lord Jesus, that we, with this our *brother*, and all others departed this life, in the obedience and faith of the Lord Jesus, may have our perfect consummation and bliss in thy eternal glory, which never shall have an end.

Merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the first fruits of the resurrection, and, by entering into glory, has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers, we humbly beseech thee to raise us up from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that, being partakers of the death of Christ, and followers of his holy life, we may be partakers of his Spirit and his promises, that, when we shall depart this life, we may rest in him. O look upon us, thy servants, whose breath is but vanity, and whose days pass away like a tale that is told: the days of our pilgrimage are few and evil, and we disquiet ourselves in vain. Look upon us with a gracious eye; give us thy Holy Spirit of wisdom and peace to guide us in the ways of God, that, our affections and

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conversation being in heaven, and being weaned from this world, we may die daily unto sin; that, laying up a treasure of good works, we may not dread the day of our death, but may be freed from the terrors of the day of judgment, and the gates of hell may not prevail against us. O suffer us not, for any temptation of the devil, or any pains of death, to fall from thee. Enable us to fight a good fight with perseverance, to finish our course with holiness, and to keep the faith with constancy unto the end; that, at the day of judgment, we may stand at the right hand of the throne of God, and hear the blessed sentence of, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world."

May the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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PENITENTIAL PRAYERS

FOR

FAST DAYS.

CONFESSION OF SIN.

ST AUSTIN.

BEFORE thy eyes, O gracious Lord, we bring our crimes — before thee we expose the wounds of our bleeding souls. That which we suffer is but little, but that which we deserve is intolerable. We fear the punishment of our sins, but still proceed pertinaciously in sinning; our weakness is sometimes smitten with thy rod, but our iniquity is not changed; our grieved minds are troubled, but our stiff necks are not bent unto the yoke of holy obedience; our lives pass in vanity, and disobedience, and trouble, but amend in nothing. When thou smitest us, then we confess our sins; but when thy visitations are past, then we forget that we have wept. When thou stretchest out thy hand, then we promise to do our duty; but when thou takest off thy hand, we perform no promises. If thou strikest, we cry to thee to spare us; but when thou sparest, we again provoke thee to strike us.

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Thus, O God, the guilty confess before thee; and, unless thou givest us pardon, it is but just that we perish. But, O Almighty God, our Father, grant to us what we ask, even though we deserve it not; for thou madest us out of nothing, else we had not any power to ask. Pardon us, O gracious Father, and take away all our sin, and destroy the works of the devil, and let the enemy have no part or portion in us; but acknowledge the work of thine hands — the price of thine own blood — the sheep of thy fold — the fellow-members of thine own body — the purchase of thine own inheritance, and make us to be what thou hast commanded; give unto us what thou hast designed for us, enable us for the work thou hast enjoined us, and bring us to the place which thou hast prepared for us by the blood of the everlasting covenant, and by the pains of the cross, and the glories of thy resurrection, O blessed and most glorious Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus. Amen.

MORNING OF A FAST DAY.

REV. B. JENKS.

O Lord God, glorious in holiness, and of purer eyes than to behold any iniquity without abhorrence of it, and indignation against it! how shall man, sinful man, appear before thee! and how shall we, frail, depraved, and polluted as we are,

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shew ourselves in the presence of such a great and wise, just and holy God as thou art! When we look upon thy perfect law, and see what we should be — what manner of persons in all holy conversation and godliness; and when we reflect on our own hearts and lives, and find what we are, — how wanting in our duty, and how contrary to that holy rule thou dost prescribe us, by which to keep our hearts, and to order our conversation, — we cannot come into thy presence, O Lord, without confusion of face, and anguish of soul, and remorse of conscience, to think how foolishly and wickedly we have done, and made ourselves more wretched and degraded than any thing that moves upon the face of the earth.

We have misspent the most part of our time here in the neglect of thy work, and in disobedience against thy word, daily multiplying our offences against thee, as thou hast been pleased daily to multiply thy blessings and favours upon us. O the precious hours we have lost — the means that we have neglected — the mercies that we have abused — the calls and warnings, offers and invitations, that we have disregarded! How bold have we made with thy glorious majesty, and with thy holy laws! What little regard have we had of thee! What little conscientious fear of offending thee!

Sinning as we have done in all estates and affairs, in all relations and circumstances of our lives, we acknowledge, righteous Lord, how large

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a share we have contributed towards the public guilt; and this not only through weakness and supineness, and the violence of temptations, but many times knowingly, wilfully, and presumptuously, committing great sins with little remorse.

Lord, we have not glorified thee in bearing fruits of holiness answerable to thy revealed will, and to thy merciful love; but we desire now to give thee glory, in confessing our sins, and humbling our souls, and acknowledging our desert of all thy judgments, and admiring and magnifying the riches of that grace, which has spared us so long, and shewn us such marvellous loving-kindness, notwithstanding all the provocations of our sins.

We have heard, and blessed be thy name we have found, that the King of Heaven is a merciful King; that our sins, though many, may be pardoned, and our souls, though much endangered, may be recovered and eternally saved. O help us so to repent of our sins, that thou mayest never lay them to our charge, but upon thy Son our Saviour, whom thou hast sent to be a propitiation for our sins. For his sake, give us pardon for all wherein we have offended thee, whether they be sins of omission or commission, sins of weakness or wilfulness, failings or presumptions. May we forsake them all, not only in the outward commission, but the inward affection; and abstaining from all evil both in flesh and spirit, may endeavour to perfect holiness in the fear of God.

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O pour out a spirit of serious reformation upon this whole nation, heal the distempers of our souls, curb the disorders of our lives, and recover the decayed power of godliness in the land: and so prepare and dispose us not only for thy temporal mercies, but for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. And let us wisely consider of thy doings; and know the time of our visitation; and hearken to the calls, and take the warnings, and improve the means and mercies vouchsafed to us, while we have them; and follow the conduct of thy good providence, and comply with all thy gracious methods used to reclaim us from our sins, and to reform our lives, and save our souls, that all may not be in vain to us, but at last effect the purposes of thy mercy upon us, to deliver us from the evil to come; through Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

EVENING OF A FAST DAY.

REV. B. JENKS.

O Lord, most high and holy, the God of all power and glory, against whom we have greatly sinned, and who by our sins hast been highly dishonoured; we fall down and humble ourselves here at thy feet, confessing our grievous guilt, and ever due desert of all thy judgments. For we cannot but own ourselves to be of those degenerate children whom thou hast nourished

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and brought up, yet have rebelled against thee. Holy Father, we are filled with confusion to think what little proportion our lives do bear to our means; how unsuitable to our profession has been our conversation; and how inconsistent we have been with ourselves as children of God, members of Christ, and heirs of the kingdom of heaven. We call the Gospel our rule, and profess to believe all that it contains of eternal truth, and yet behave as we did not know or value the privileges we possess, nor the obligations under which we stand.

Lord, we have been vain, proud, and unthankful in our healthy and prosperous state; and sullen, froward, murmuring, and discontented in our low afflicted condition. The kindness and mercy that should have allured us unto thee, and encouraged us the more faithfully and cheerfully to serve thee, has but made us forgetful; and the correction and trouble that should have driven us out of our sins, and hastened us to flee for the life of our souls, has but put us out of patience, and filled us with prejudice against thy righteous hand, and with hard and unworthy thoughts of our God.

To thee, O Lord, who searchest and triest the heart, we must bewail the sins of our vain thoughts and evil imaginations, our covetous desires, our proud, envious, and malicious projects; for these corrupt and defile the habitation, and render it unfit for the abode of thy blessed Spirit. These are the causes of all the other evils of our lives,

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and render us even as criminal in thy sight, as if we had outwardly acted what we have inwardly devised. This proneness to approving, delighting, and consenting to sin, carries with it so much guilt, that for this alone thou mightest justly condemn us in that day when the secrets of all men shall be judged by Jesus Christ.

Now, the Lord in mercy pity our frailties and infirmities, and forgive us all our sinful neglect and iniquities. And for what is still wanting in us, O be thou graciously pleased to accept the full and perfect merits and righteousness of thy dear Son, our most holy Saviour, and let his precious blood be heard pleading for us, where we have nothing to say for ourselves, being so utterly unworthy to be heard on our own account.

O God, be merciful to this sinful nation, that has so long enjoyed and so much abused thy rich and sundry blessings, and still goes on to provoke thee daily. O forgive the many crying sins, for which thou mightest justly lay us desolate, and utterly reject us. Grant us thy grace, so to repent and amend, that we may be spared, and saved from all the judgments which we have so fully deserved.

May all thy warnings, and threatenings, and chastenings, not leave us still an unrelenting incorrigible people, nor pass over us without working an humble submission and unfeigned repentance upon us. O that we may find a blessed reconciliation, in humbling ourselves before thee, returning

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unto thee, and bringing forth such fruits of new and better obedience, as in the Lord our righteousness shall be favourably accepted by thee.

And for all the mercy which even in judgment thou hast still remembered towards us; for all thy continued patience and long-suffering with us, for our being not only spared, but in so many ways blest and favoured, not unto us, O Lord, but to thy name be all the praise rendered by us, with humble and grateful hearts for evermore. Amen.

FOR A FAST DAY MORNING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O eternal God, who hast framed man of soul and body, and fitted him with capacities to serve thee; according to all our faculties, let thy Holy Spirit rule and sanctify every power and member, both of soul and body, that they may keep that beauteous order which thou in our creation didst intend, and to which thou dost restore thy people in the renovations of grace. Grant that our affections may be guided by reason, our understanding be enlightened by thy word, and then may rule and persuade our will. Let us suffer no violent transport of passion, nor be overcome by a temptation; that sin may not reign in our mortal bodies, but that both souls and bodies may be conformable to the sufferings of the Holy Saviour; bearing in our bodies the mark of the dying of our Lord, and our spirits humble and

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mortified, like unto him in all his imitable perfections.

Lord, thou beholdest how all the spirits of darkness endeavour the extinction of our hopes, the dispersion of all those graces, and the prevention of all the glories which our Redeemer hath purchased for his obedient children. Our very meat and drink are full of poison, our senses are snares, our business is various temptation, our sins are inlets to more, and our good actions made occasions of sin. O deliver us from the malice of the devil, from the fallacies of the world, from our own folly; that we be not devoured by the one, deluded by the other, nor betrayed by ourselves; but let thy grace, which is sufficient for us, be always present with us. Let thy Spirit instruct us in the spiritual warfare, arming our understanding, securing our will, and fortifying our hearts with resolutions of piety, incentives to religion, and renunciation of sin, that the dangers by which we are encompassed may become unto us occasions of victory and triumph, through the aid of the Holy Ghost, and by the cross of the Lord Jesus, who hath for himself and all his servants triumphed over sin, and hell, and the grave, even all the powers of darkness, from which, by the mercies of Jesus, and the merits of his passion, now and for ever deliver both us and all thy faithful servants.

O thou most holy Redeemer, who for our sakes didst fast forty days and forty nights, and hast left to us thy example and thy prediction, that, in

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the days of thy absence from us, we, thy servants and children of the bride-chamber, should fast; teach us to do this act of discipline in such a manner that it may become an act of religion. Let us never, like Esau, value a dish of meat above a blessing; but, denying our appetites, let us accustom ourselves to the yoke, that our bodies, being free from the intemperance of meat and drink, and our spirits from the pressure of appetite, we may have no desires but of thee; that our outward man, decaying daily, and becoming mortified by the abatement of its too free and unnecessary support, may be resigned to the entire dominion of the soul, and pass from vanity to piety, from weakness to strength, from darkness and impurity to the light and exaltation of purity.

Lord, thou wast afflicted with hunger and thirst, with labours and sorrows, and, that thou mightest make a full and perfect atonement for us, wast led to the slaughter by those for whom in love thou wast ready to die. And now, Lord, who hast done so much for us, be pleased farther to make it effectual, lest we become eternally miserable, and lost to all hopes and possibilities of comfort. Teach us to live wholly unto thee, our God and King, to be ready to die for thee, by whom we are redeemed, and to be conformable to thy life and sufferings unto righteousness. O Saviour of a guilty world, hear us, we beseech thee; strengthen and nourish us with all spiritual graces, till we attain the life of a glorious immortality. Amen.

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FOR A FAST DAY EVENING.

PETER MARTYR.

Father, we have sinned before thee, we have sinned in heaven and in earth, and dare not lift up our eyes unto thee. Alas! we are of those whom thou hast adopted as thy children, but we have never feared thee as a father, transgressing thy commandments as if we had been strangers; wherefore we judge ourselves unworthy to be called thy children. For our sakes thou gavest unto the cross thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, very God, and very man, having in himself all the treasures of thy wisdom, being the author of all creatures, which he upholdeth and preserveth by his word. This, thy Son, was for our sake delivered up unto the shameful death of the cross, that we, becoming conformable to his image, might, together with him, be thy children. But we, unmindful of this so great a benefit, have denied his truth and holy faith.

Grievously, O Lord, have we sinned. According to thy bountiful goodness, leaving many others better than ourselves in darkness, thou hast illuminated us with the light of thy word, hast engrafted us into thy Church, hast called us to partake of regeneration and remission of sins, and the holy Sacrament; finally, hast enriched us with many spiritual treasures, which thou wouldst not open to the mighty, unto the philosophers, and wise men of this world. Nevertheless, we, making

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small account of these thy most precious gifts, given unto us both by thee and by Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is our wisdom, our righteousness, and our redemption, have treacherously joined ourselves unto the enemies of thy holy name.

Father, we have sinned before thee in heaven and in earth, and are not worthy to be called thy children. We, being polluted with the foulness of wicked deeds, thou hast cleansed by the blood of Christ, lightened us by thy Spirit, restored us to an holy life, and hast made us heirs, fellows, and partakers of eternal felicity. What could we at any time have desired more of thee? seeing thou hast given us all things with Christ. Though thou hast given us these gifts and ornaments, which are indeed incomparable, yet we do confess we have dealt most wickedly with thee. The ox and ass do know their owner with greater faithfulness than we, whom thou hast so greatly advanced, glorified, and adorned with all kinds of good things; wherefore we have no more excuse remaining. To thee of very right belongeth glory and honour, and unto us nothing else but shame and confusion of heart, countenance, and deeds.

We have sinned before thee, O Father, in heaven and in earth. Determine thou of us whatever it shall please thee, yet will we be wholly thine. We are sorry, and do utterly detest our shameful sins; and the more grievously we have erred, the more earnestly we desire thine ever-

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lasting mercy. O thou, our Lord Jesus Christ, who art the very pureness itself, who camest into this world, not for the just, but for sinners; cleanse us again with thy blood, replenish us wholly with faith, that we may embrace thy death, that giveth life—thy blood, that is the price of eternity—and thy passion, that is the rest, comfort, haven, and refuge unto wretched and unhappy sinners—seeing thou didst receive into grace Peter, who denied thee—didst graciously receive the apostles, who had forsaken thee—didst reconcile to thyself David, who was overwhelmed with most grievous sins—and hast signified that thou wouldest not the death of a sinner, but that he should repent and live, forgiving not only once, but, if need require, seventy times seven. Behold, we here condemn and renounce whatsoever we have committed against thine honour and divine will. Wherefore, we beseech thee, good Father, since thou hast so encouraged us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, that thou wilt give us such strength as may be sufficient to enable us to order our whole lives in a better manner. We are thy work, as well touching natural constitution as in this spiritual regeneration.

We entreat thee, therefore, not to despise our prayers; and that which cannot be done for our unworthiness, do thou grant, for Jesus Christ's merits, and thy holy name's sake, unto whom be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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SACRAMENTAL PRAYERS.

MORNING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O KING of glory, Lord and Maker of the world, thou art a God knowing all things, and even all thoughts. Be thou present with us in the religious solemnity to which thou hast been graciously pleased to invite us this day. Have mercy upon us thy people, who, with hungry and thirsty souls, are going to be refreshed and comforted by thy word, and the divine nutriment of thy holy body and blood. Deliver us from all the shame and corruption, and evil inclinations that attend our sins, and from all the dangers that may justly follow them. Cleanse our wills and our understanding from the deceit of the world, from the violence and snares of the devil, from all guile and hypocrisy, from evil word and work, that we may serve thee faithfully, worship thee religiously, and pray acceptably unto thee. Pity our infirmities, despise not our unworthiness, curse not our follies, and take not from thy servants thy grace and the

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light of thy countenance; but, according to the multitude of thy great mercies, do away all our offences, that, without self-condemnation, we may appear before thy glory, covered with the veil of Jesus, adorned with the robe of his righteousness, and illuminated with the brightness of thy divine spirit. Thou hast commanded us to communicate in the power of the Holy Ghost, and obedience of the Lord Jesus. Be thou well pleased, O Lord, with this our bounden duty and service, and grant that, with a religious fear, and a pure conscience, we may fulfil this service, presenting a holy sacrifice holily unto thee, that thou mayest receive it in heaven. God of mercy, thy only begotten Son came into the world, that he might bring the wandering sheep into the fold; grant that we, who are going to commemorate his mercy at thy holy table, may not be excluded. We do not approach thee in our own righteousness, but in the hope and confidence of that glorious mercy by which thou hast sent thy blessed Son to redeem miserable and lost mankind. We humbly beseech thee to grant that this commemoration of his death, which thou hast ordained to be a means of salvation to us, may not become an occasion of our condemnation, but of pardon of our sins, of the renovation of our souls, and the preservation of our bodies.

Vouchsafe, O God, to finish and perfect this oblation, that it may be sanctified by the Holy Ghost, and be accepted in the Lord Jesus; that

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we, being adopted into the society and participation of his holiness and sufferings, admitted to his service, incorporated to his body, united to his purity, made partakers of his intercession, pardoned by his mercy, sanctified by his grace, confirmed by his strength, professing his religion, believing in his word, hoping in his promises, and keeping all his commandments, may receive the reward of faithful and wise stewards in the day of thy righteous judgment.

Glory be to thee, O Father of mercies, the Father of men and angels, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Glory be to thee, most holy and eternal Son of God, the blessed Saviour and Redeemer of the world, the Advocate of sinners, the Prince of peace, the Head of the Church, and the mighty Deliverer of all that put their trust in him.

Glory be to thee, eternal Spirit of God, the Holy Ghost the Comforter, the sanctifying and life-giving Spirit.

All thanks and glory, all honour and power, all love and obedience, be to the blessed and undivided Trinity, One God eternal. Amen.

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SACRAMENTAL EVENING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

We bless and praise thy name, O eternal Father, most merciful God, that thou hast vouchsafed to admit us this day to a participation of the body and blood of thy dear Son. Be pleased, therefore, of thy infinite goodness, to grant that the holy communion which we have this day received may not be to us unto judgment and condemnation; but may it be comfort to our souls —health and safety in every temptation—joy and peace in every trouble—light and peace in every word and work—support and defence, in the hour of our death, against all the oppositions of the spirits of darkness; and grant that no unclean thing may be in us, who have been admitted to thy holy table.

Receive, O mighty Lord, this sacrifice which we have this day commemorated, for and in behalf of all Christian people whom thou hast redeemed with the blood of thy Son, and purchased as thine inheritance. From the fountains of mercy, let all those upon whom the name of Jesus is called, receive confirmation and increase of grace, fruitfulness in good works, and perfect understanding in the way of godliness.

Defend and preserve thy Church from all heresy and schism, from all that persecute the truth, and

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from all that work wickedness and seek evil against her.

Give thy blessing, O God, to this nation. Remember us for good; be reconciled unto us in the Son of thy love, and let not thine anger be any longer upon us. Send us health and peace, justice and truth, good laws and good government; thy holy religion unalloyed, undisturbed; temperate air, seasonable showers, wholesome dews, fruitful seasons; crown the year with thy goodness, and let thy clouds drop fatness; that we may glorify thy name, and confess thy bounty, while thou bearest witness to us from heaven, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

With a propitious eye and tender pity, behold the miseries of mankind; put a speedy period to all our calamities. Hear the sighings of the distressed, the groans of the sick, the prayers of the oppressed, the desires of the poor and needy; support the weakness of them that languish and faint, ease the pains of them that are in affliction, and call to thee for help. Take from the miserable all tediousness of spirit and despair; pardon all the penitent, reform the vicious, confirm the holy, and let them be holy still. Pity the folly of the young, their little reason and great passions; succour the infirmities and temptations of the aged, preserving them that they may not sin towards the close of their lives, for Jesus Christ's sake.

Admit, O Lord, into the society of our prayers and the benefits of thy mediation, our fathers and

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brethren, the aged and the young, our friends and benefactors, our relatives and enemies,—all that have desired our prayers, and all who need them —all whom we have, and those whom we have not remembered. Lord, thou knowest their joys and all their sorrows, their hopes and their fears, the numbers of their sins, and the measures of their repentances; sanctify them and us, let our portion be in religion and purity, in the peace of conscience and the joys of the Holy Ghost, in the love of thee and of our neighbours. O gather and number us with the blessed, when thou wilt, and in what manner thou art pleased, only let us appear before thee without shame and without sins; joyful in our Redeemer—trusting in the merits of the strong sacrifice offered up for us by Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour, to whom, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, we give all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

SACRAMENTAL MORNING.

WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

O blessed Jesus, who once offeredst up thyself for us upon the cross, and now offerest thyself to us in the sacrament, let not, we beseech thee, our impenitence and unworthiness frustrate these so inestimable mercies to us, but qualify us, by thy grace, to receive the full benefit of them. O Lord, we have abundant need of thee, but are so hin-

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dered by guilt, so holden with the cords of our sins, that we are not able to move towards thee. O loose us from the bands wherewith Satan and our own evil desires have bound us, and draw us, that we may follow after thee. O Lord, thou seest daily how eagerly we pursue the paths that lead to death; but when thou invitest us to life and glory, we turn from and forsake our own mercy. How often hath this feast been prepared, and we have, with frivolous excuses, absented ourselves! or, if we have come, it hath been rather to defy than adore thee; we have brought such troops of thy professed enemies, unrepented sins, along with us, as if we came not to commemorate, but renew thy passion — crucifying thee afresh, and putting thee to open shame. And now, of what punishment shall we be thought worthy, who have thus trampled under foot the Son of God, and counted the blood of the covenant an unholy thing? Yet, O merciful Jesus, this blood is our only refuge: O let this make our atonement, or we perish eternally. Wherefore didst thou shed it but to save sinners; neither can the merit of it be overwhelmed either by the greatness or number of our sins.

O thou, who hast as our High Priest sacrificed for us, intercede for us also, and plead thy meritorious sufferings on our behalf, and suffer not, O Redeemer, the price of thy blood to be utterly lost; and grant, O Lord, that as the sins we have to be forgiven are many, so we may love much.

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Lord, thou seest what faint and cold affections we have towards thee, O warm and enliven them. And as in this sacrament thy transcendent love in dying for us is shewn forth; so, we beseech thee, let it convey such grace into us, as may enable us to make some returns of love; O let this divine fire descend from heaven into our souls, and let our sins be the burnt-offering for it to consume, that no corrupt affection, or any cursed thing, may find shelter within our hearts, or ever again defile that place which thou hast chosen for thy temple. Thou diedst to redeem us from all iniquity: O let us not sell ourselves to work wickedness; but grant that we may approach thee at this time with most sincere and fixed resolutions of an entire reformation, and let us receive such grace and strength from thee, as may enable us faithfully to perform them. Lord, there are many habitual sins under which our souls lie oppressed; and though we lie never so long at the pool of Bethesda, come never so often to thy table, yet unless thou be pleased to put forth thy healing virtue, they will still remain uncured. O thou blessed Physician of souls, heal us, and grant that our sickness be not unto death. O Christ, hear us, and cause us now to approach thee with such humility and contrition, love and devotion, that thou mayest vouchsafe to abide with us, communicating to us thyself, and all the merits of thy passion. And then, O Lord, let no accusations of Satan, or of our own conscience,

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amaze and distract us; but having peace with thee, let us have peace in ourselves, that thy wine may gladden, and thy bread of life strengthen our hearts, enabling us cheerfully to run the way of thy commandments. Grant this, O merciful Saviour, for thy compassion's sake. Amen.

SACRAMENTAL EVENING.

WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

O thou Fountain of all goodness, from whom every good and perfect gift cometh, and to whom all honour and glory should be returned, we desire with the most fervent affections of grateful hearts to bless and praise thee for these inestimable benefits thou hast vouchsafed unto us. Lord, what is man that thou shouldest so regard him, as to send thy beloved Son to suffer such bitter things for him? O the heighth and depth of this mercy of thine, which admits us to the renewing of that covenant with thee, which we have so often and so perversely broken!—that we, who are not worthy of that daily bread which sustains and nourishes the body, should be made partakers of that bread of life which nourishes the soul. Suffer us no more, we beseech thee, O God, to turn thy grace into wantonness, to make thy mercy an occasion of security; but let this unspeakable love of thine constrain us to obedience, that since our blessed Lord hath died for

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us, we may live unto him, and not unto ourselves. O Lord, we know there is no concord between Christ and Belial: therefore, since thou hast been pleased to enter into our hearts, let us not suffer sin to drive thee thence. Thou, who hast so dearly bought us, keep possession of us, and let nothing ever take us out of thine hands. To this end be thou graciously pleased to watch over us, and defend us from all spiritual adversaries, but especially deliver us from ourselves, from the treachery of our own hearts, which are too easily yielded up as a prey. And where thou seest we are by nature or custom most weak, there do thou, we beseech thee, magnify thy power in our preservation. And, Lord, may the Saviour's sufferings for our sins, and the vows we have now made against them, never depart from our minds; but let the remembrance of the one enable us to perform the other. O be thou our strength, who of ourselves are not able to struggle with the slightest temptation. O thou, in whom there is no shadow of change, communicate to us, we beseech thee, such stability of mind, that we may no longer start aside, but may continue steadfast in thy covenant, and not one good purpose which thy Spirit hath raised in us this day may vanish, as so many have formerly done, but that they may bring forth fruit unto life eternal.

Enlighten all that sit in darkness; take from them all blindness, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word, and bring them home, blessed

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Lord, unto thy fold. Let no person, by impenitence and wilful sin, forfeit the blessings of thy redemption; but, by the power of thy grace, bring all, even the most obstinate sinners, to repentance. Have mercy upon thy Church, and let thy glory shine upon thy sanctuary. Bless them that wait at thine altar; open thou their lips, that their mouth may shew forth thy praise. Save and defend all Christian kings, rulers, and governors, especially those to whom we owe subjection. Guide and assist them in the discharge of that office to which thou hast appointed them, that, under their rule, we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. May all in sickness, sorrow, or tribulation of any kind, in all their temptations, steadfastly look up to thee, and strive against sin. Bless all our beloved relations, friends, and benefactors; preserve them in constancy, that their faith may never fail. And grant, O merciful Father, that, through the blood of the atoning sacrifice, we may all be admitted, pure and unblameable, into that place of purity, and mansion of rest, where we shall all unite in singing eternal praises to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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THANKSGIVINGS.

GENERAL THANKSGIVING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

It is very meet and right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks and praise, honour and adoration, love and duty, to thee, O Lord God, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort, who hast known our souls in adversity, and delivered us from the evil we have deserved, and hast given us good things we deserved not. We confess, O God, we are less than the least of all thy mercies; but thy immense, thy unlimited goodness and loving-kindness rejoiceth in doing us good — in preserving us from evil — in heaping thy benefits upon us — in giving to us witness from heaven — in feeding our hearts with food and gladness — in delivering us from our enemies — in snatching us from the power of the grave — in commanding thy destroying angel to hurt us not, — for all these blessings, praised be God.

We are thy servants and thy children; we are all thine, and have no interest but thy service.

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Thou art our God, and all our hopes are laid up in thee. Thou art gracious when thou smitest us; but we cannot express thy infinite goodness when thou relievest our necessity — when thou sustainest our sorrows — when thou dost deliver us from thy wrath — when thou hearest our prayers — when thou pourest thy benefits upon us. O give unto thy servants thankful hearts, obedient and loving spirits, carefulness of duty, charity and humility, zeal for thy glory, submission to thy divine will and pleasure; that, serving thee with all our powers, loving thee with all our faculties, obeying thee in all instances, delighting in thee in all dispensations, we may be conducted through all varieties of providence, and defended in all temptations of our enemies, and relieved in all the necessities of our life, and assisted in all particulars of our duty, that so we may pass through this valley of tears in peace and meekness, in faith and charity, with the confidence of a holy hope, and in the strength of thy righteous promises, to the fruition of those mercies which are the portion of obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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FOR RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

REV. J. SWETE.

O most merciful Lord God, who art wonderful in thy doings, and gracious in thy dispensations towards the children of men, we offer unto thee our sacrifice of thanksgiving, for bringing back thy servant from the confines of the grave. Blessed be thy name, that though thou hast chastened *him*, (or *her*,) thou hast not delivered *him* over unto death. In the midst of thy judgments thou hast remembered mercy,—thou hast made all *his* bed in *his* sickness, and hast restored *him* to *his* family and friends. O gracious God, we thank thee that thou hast heard our supplications, and hast had mercy, not on *him* only, but on us also; for thou hast turned our mourning into joy, and our heaviness into songs of praise. We beseech thee to bless all farther means made use of for *his* more perfect recovery to bodily health; but, above all things, influence *his* heart with a grateful sense of thy late goodness towards *him*, that *he* may love thee more fervently, serve thee more cheerfully, and trust in thy salvation more assuredly. Suffer *him* not to grow secure and careless, because thou hast lengthened out a little that span of life which must soon come to an end; but make *him* the more watchful and diligent, in proportion to the mercies vouchsafed to *him*. Grant both to him and to us a desire to

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improve the day of grace whilst it shines on us, and to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto thee, which is our reasonable service. Thou, Lord, deliverest our soul from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. May we walk before thee in the land of the living; may we receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. May we pay our vows unto thee in the presence of all thy people, in the courts of thy house; and may we also shew forth thy praise, by devoting ourselves to thy service and glory. May we, by thy grace, deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom, with thee, O Father, and thee, O Eternal Spirit, three persons in one God, be ascribed all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

FOR A PUBLIC THANKSGIVING DAY.

REV. R. JENKS.

Blessed Lord, the only living and true God, who art of thyself, and givest being and preservation to us and to all things else that are in the world! we live by thee; our whole dependence is upon thee, for all the good that ever we have or hope for; and, above all thy mercies, have we

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cause to admire, and bless, and praise thee our God, for those mercies which, in so large a measure, and especial a manner, thou hast been pleased still to vouchsafe unto us, who are the work of thy hands, and the purchase of the blood of thy Son, whom thou hast made and redeemed, to shew forth thy praise, and to glorify thy name. And we desire to pay unto thee that tribute of homage, and service, and prayer, and praise, which thou hast made us capable of, and so many ways obliged us to: we desire to perform the same in such a manner, that thou mayest mercifully accept us and our services at the hands of Jesus Christ.

Worthy art thou, O Lord our God, to receive all honour and glory, all thanks and praise, and love and obedience, as in the courts of heaven, so in all the assemblies of thy servants here upon earth; for thou art great, and dost wondrous things; thou art God alone, and thy goodness is equal to thy greatness. Thy mercy is over all thy works, and endureth for ever. Thou, Lord, hast been favourable to thy land, and hast dealt graciously with us, for which we desire to bless thy name, and to give thee all the glory. For it is of the Lord's mercy we are not consumed, because thy compassions fail not; and that we are here alive to praise thee. That we are not now nothing, or worse than nothing, we must acknowledge to be of thy free grace, O Lord, and thy mere mercy. That all the evils which have

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threatened us have not befallen us, and that those evils which have come upon us have not utterly destroyed and undone us, is because thou, Lord, art gracious and merciful, patient and kind, and still doing good to poor sinful men, who deserve nothing but evil at thy hands.

O how much have we to say of the goodness of the Lord by our own experience, and thy help at hand still in all the times and cases of our need. How sweet and wonderful is it to recount all the instances of thy patience with us, and thy bounty to us! How, from time to time, thou hast signalized us with thy mercy, and made us remarkable for thy blessings and favours, most kind and precious, of many sorts! Thou hast cast our lot in a land of light, where we live under the influences of thy gospel, and thereby are called to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And for all the happy advantages and good things of this life, which thou hast given us plenteously to enjoy, thou hast made us the envy of our neighbours, and the particular objects of thy kindness. Though many times we have provoked thee to stretch forth thy hand, and threaten to destroy us, yet in judgment thou hast still remembered mercy towards us; and after the clouds and darkness gathered about us, and dread and distress were on every side of us, thou hast caused the heavens again to clear up and smile upon us, and returned with the visitations of thy love, and the joy of thy salvation.

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In the late dangers, thou hast been to us a tower of defence, and in the time of our need and perplexity, thou hast shewed thyself graciously and powerfully in our behalf. Thou hast helped us for the glory of thy name, and redeemed us for thy mercy's sake; not because we were worthy, but because thou hast favour towards us. O what shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits! What can we give to thee, O Lord, but the glory of thy own gifts and goodness unto us! O let not our hearts be shut and straitened towards thee, whose hand has been so open unto our wants. Possess and enlarge our hearts with greater love and thankfulness to the gracious Giver of all good things; and make us more sensible of thy goodness, that we may praise thee from our inmost hearts, and thank thee with joyful lips.

O make us truly grateful, and may we not only mention the loving-kindness of the Lord, but glorify his name in bearing much fruit, more answerable to such mercy and encouragement as we have received from above; let our lives be led to thy praise, that we may in all things serve and glorify thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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INTERCESSIONS.

WHEN A CHILD IS TO BE BAPTIZED.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of men and angels, Lord of heaven and earth, whose Spirit, moving upon the waters at the beginning of the world, produced every living and every moving creature; thou, by the flood of waters, didst wash away the iniquity of the old world, and by preserving to thyself a generation of holy persons, whom thou didst bring up from those waters, didst consign to us thereby a type of regeneration: look, O Lord, graciously upon the face of thy Church, and multiply in her thy regenerations, and the new births of thy Spirit. With the abundance of thy grace make thy holy city to rejoice, and still open this holy fountain of baptism for the reformation and sanctification of all the nations of the world, that, thy blessed Spirit sanctifying the waters, a new and holy offspring may arise, full of health and light; and that human nature, which was made after thine own image, being reformed and restored to the honour of its first beginning, may be cleansed

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from all the impure adherences of sin, preserved from its dominion, and rescued from its sad effects; that what shall be so born in the bosom of the Church, may dwell in the house of God, and reign with thee for ever in the inheritance of the Lord Jesus, our holy Saviour; who was baptized of John in Jordan; who did walk upon the waters, and converted water into wine, and out of whose precious side shed forth blood and water, the two sacraments of life unto his holy Church; and commanded his disciples to teach all nations, baptizing them with water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. May he bless and sanctify, by his Holy Spirit, the baptismal water, that it may be instrumental and effective of grace, of pardon, and sanctification. Hear us, O most gracious God, that whosoever shall be baptized in such water, may be renewed by thy grace, sanctified by thy Spirit, preserved by thy providence, and guided by thy word; that the souls presented unto thee may be cleansed and purified in that water, springing from the paradise of God, and that there may daily be added to thy Church such as shall be saved.

Almighty and eternal Lord, who hast redeemed us from sin and shame, from the gates of hell, and the sting of death, and from ignorance and darkness, by thy dear Son, who is that light which lighteneth every one that cometh into the world; we praise and glorify thy name, that thou hast called us to the knowledge of thy will, to the

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love of thy name, and the service of thy majesty, which is perfect freedom, the freedom of the sons of God.

As thou hast dealt graciously with us, so deal with this infant, whom we shall humbly bring and offer to our blessed Saviour, that he should receive *him* and bless *him* with the blessings of an everlasting love. Receive *him*, O most gracious Lord, who is thy child by creation, make *him* thine also by adoption into thy covenant of grace and favour; let *him* be admitted into Christ's kingdom, enter into his warfare, believe his doctrine, labour and hope for his promises, that this child may have *his* understanding for ever brought unto the obedience, *his* affections to the love, and all *his* faculties to the service of Christ.

Lord, thou hast given the promise of thy Spirit to us and to our children, even to as many as the Lord our God shall call; give thy Holy Spirit to this infant, that the evil spirits of darkness may not hurt the body, nor deceive the understanding, nor corrupt the will, nor tempt the affections of this child; but may thy Spirit, which bloweth where it listeth, be in *him* as the seed of God, springing up to life eternal, and the kingdom of God which is within, and cometh not with observation, may early rule and conduct this infant, preventing the folly of *his* childhood from growing up to sin in *his* youth, and working strongly in *him*, when *his* weakness, *his* ignorances and temptations, are most powerful to prevail upon him;

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that from *his* cradle to *his* grave he may be guided by the Spirit of God in the paths of the divine commandments. Admit *him*, O God, into the bosom of the Church, into the arms of thy mercy, into a right of the promises, into the service of Christ, into the communion of saints; and give *him* power to become the child of God, that being buried with Christ in baptism, he may also rise with him through the same, our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

WHEN A CHILD IS TO BE BAPTIZED.

REV. J. BEAN.

O Lord of life and salvation, who hast been pleased to ordain that those who enter into thy Church shall be baptized with water, behold us now about to attend this injunction, and enable us to perform the duty with every proper disposition of mind.

We would be filled with thankfulness, O Lord, that not only we, but our children, even in their tender years, are admitted to a state of communion with thee. With a due sense of this mercy would we bring this dear child to the holy ordinance of baptism. O look upon *him* [or *her*,] and bestow on *him* every blessing for the conveyance of which this sacrament was ordained.

We present *him* to thee, O Lord, that *he* may be cleansed in that fountain which thou hast

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opened in our Saviour's blood, for purifying us from the defilement with which our nature is polluted. We bring *him* to thee, that *he* may be regenerated by the grace of thy Holy Spirit. We believe that these are the ends which we should seek in this duty, and we trust that we shall not seek them in vain.

And give us grace, O Lord, if the life of this child be spared, to follow this act with the diligent use of every means in our power which tendeth to teach *him* what thou hast done for *his* salvation, and how *he* must live in order finally to be received into thy Church in heaven. Grant that our prayers, and our instructions, and our example, may all combine to promote *his* growth in Christian knowledge, faith, and obedience.

Hear us, O gracious Father, farther praying, that it may please thee to give us an early proof that thou hast blessed our endeavours. Let our hearts be made to rejoice in seeing the marks of grace accompanying the advancement of reason. Let a reverence of thee be seen in *him* during the days of childhood, and a decided piety as *he* advances towards youth.

Suffer *him* not to give any portion of *his* uncertain time to sinful or vain courses, but taking *his* Saviour's yoke as soon as it is possible to understand that obligation, may *he* be glad and rejoice in him all *his* days.

Thus, O Lord, enable *him* to live; and when *his* end shall come, may *he* close *his* days, believing

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in that God to whom *he* is dedicated, and prepared for that eternal joy which is the end of the ordinances thou hast appointed in thy Church.

Grant, O most good and merciful God, that we, and the children thou hast given us, may live together in Christian love and peace; rejoicing in our Saviour, and taking comfort in the faith and piety of each other toward thee, our common Father in heaven. And may our example as a family be complete. Make us attentive to every civil and social, as well as to every religious duty, that the doctrine of God our Saviour may be adorned in all things.

Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Mediator and Redeemer, to whom, with thee, and the Holy Ghost, be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

FOR THE CHILDREN OF A FAMILY.

REV. J. BEAN.

O Lord God, thy providence and mercy call for our continual praise. Thou not only determinest the bounds of our habitation in this world, but affordest us the means of grace, that when we are called hence, we may enter into everlasting habitations of peace and joy.

O that all who are favoured with these means may avail themselves of them, to their present and everlasting benefit; but for whom, O Lord, should we more feel such a concern than for our

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dear offspring, in whose behalf we now humbly draw near to thee.

Grant unto us, we beseech thee, both knowledge and grace, for bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. As it ought to be our principal concern to guard our children from the evils of that state into which we have been the means of bringing them, we would lead them to our Saviour, earnestly entreating him to take them into his hands; for we can have no hope, either for ourselves or for them, but in the power and grace of that good Shepherd.

Crown, O Lord, our endeavours for their good with thy blessing. Suffer not those, whose welfare we seek, to misunderstand us. Let them not look upon us as their enemies because we tell them the truth. Give to our children a teachable disposition, that they may not lose the benefit of instruction through obstinacy, rashness, or vanity. While we are pointing out to them the path of peace, may thy Holy Spirit open their eyes to see the way, and incline their hearts to walk therein.

And we humbly pray that a full reward be given us. Let none of them be content to be numbered with those who have the form of godliness without the power, but may we have cause to rejoice over them, as those who cleave to the Lord with full purpose of heart.

Let thy presence, most blessed God, accompany them all through life. Though new situations

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should produce new and greater temptations, yet all will be well if thou art with them. O guide them in all the steps which they take in matters relating to this life, and suffer them not to enter into any connections which may be injurious to them either in temporal or in spiritual things. In all their ways may they acknowledge thee, and do thou direct their paths.

We do not ask great things for them, we only pray that, in that way which seemeth good unto thee, they may have the honour of being useful to others. Should any of them prosper in temporal things, let them rejoice in their success, principally on account of its putting more power into their hands to do good.

But whether high or low in the world, let the interests of thy Church be ever dear to them, and may they count it an honour to do any thing by which those interests may be promoted. O Lord, suffer them not to leave the place which thou hast allotted them, but in that place and station may they live to thy glory, and seek the good of their fellow-creatures. And if they have it not in their power to do any thing more toward these ends than to hand down the knowledge of the Gospel to posterity, by instructing their own children, may they see that this is a great and good work, and attend to it with diligence and delight. Be pleased, O Lord, to give success to their endeavours, that they may have the honour of contributing to preserve a godly race upon earth.

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O Lord, we do not ask that our children be exempted from all trial, for we know not but it may be good for them to taste the cup of affliction; but we request that, if they are tried, they may be led to that Saviour for relief who sympathizes with us in all our distresses, and by whose grace they may not only be supported under their afflictions, but improved by them.

O Lord, whatever be their situation in the world, grant that they may walk as strangers and pilgrims on earth; never ashamed of Christ, nor of his words, nor of those who faithfully serve him. May love to God, faith in Jesus, and thankful remembrance of what he did for men, increase in them every day. As they approach the end of their course, may they feel in their hearts an increasing longing to be with their Saviour, that they may behold his glory; and when the hour of separation cometh, do thou be with them, that they may make an honourable and comfortable end.

O let there be a generation to serve thee; and may all of this house be of that number, and walk as those who are of thy family. All which we ask in the name of thy dear Son, our Lord; to whom, with thee, and the Holy Spirit, be everlasting praises. Amen.

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IN BEHALF OF ALL CHRISTENDOM.

FROM THE ANCIENT LITURGY OF THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM.

And now, O Lord Jesus Christ, in full faith and trust in thy life-giving passion, salutary cross, death, and burial, and resurrection from the dead on the third day, thy ascension into heaven, and sitting at the right hand of the Father, and looking for thy second glorious coming and terrible advent, when thou shalt come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead, and shall render to every one according to his works, we, wretched and miserable sinners, do beseech thee, that thou wouldest not deal with us after our sins, neither reward us after our iniquities; but according to thy clemency and ineffable love to mankind, overlooking and blotting out the hand-writing that is against thy servants, we entreat that thou wouldest grant us thy heavenly and eternal good things, for thy people and thine inheritance make their supplications unto thee. Have mercy upon us, O Lord God Almighty Father, have mercy upon us, according to thy great mercy, and send down thy Holy Spirit upon us all, through thy appointed means and channels of grace, for the sanctification of soul and body, for bringing forth the fruit of good works, for remission of sins, and for life everlasting.

We supplicate and entreat thee, O Lord, for thy Holy Church throughout the whole world:

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do thou now also, O Lord, plentifully supply her with the rich gifts of thy Holy Spirit. Look down upon her in her captivity; O visit her once more with thy salvation; and bring her out to serve thee in the beauty of holiness.

Remember, O Lord, the godly ministers in thy Church, endow them with wisdom, and fill them with the Holy Ghost, that they may rightly divide, and uprightly walk in the word of truth.

According to the multitudes of thy mercies and compassions, remember all those who compass thy holy altar; granting to them unblameable lives, and preserving them unspotted in their sacred ministry.

Be pleased, good Lord, to remember all Kings and Princes whom thou hast appointed to reign upon the earth, and especially thy servant our Sovereign, and all persons bearing authority: establish their dominions in peace, and incline their hearts to be favourable to thy Church, that in their tranquillity we may lead quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty.

Remember, O Lord, all Christian cities and countries, with all the faithful in them; preserve them in peace and safety.

Be gracious, Almighty Father, to our Christian brethren, that travel by sea or by land, or are in foreign countries; that are in chains or imprisonment; that are in captivity or banishment, or in hard slavery.

Remember, good Lord, in mercy those that are

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sick or diseased, and make haste to heal and deliver them: every Christian soul under affliction or calamity, all who stand in need of thy divine mercy and help; and convert all those who are in ignorance or error.

Have mercy upon us all, O Lord; remember all for good; be reconciled to us all; remove all scandals; make wars to cease; put a stop to all violence, and grant us thy peace and love, O God our Saviour, and the hope of all the ends of the earth.

Remember, O Lord, all who bring forth the fruits of faith, and do good works in thy Church, who are mindful of the poor, widows, orphans, strangers, distressed, and all who desire to be remembered in our prayers.

And grant that we may all obtain thy mercy and favour, with all those just persons who, from the beginning of the world, have pleased thee in their several generations,—patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and every just spirit made perfect in the faith of thy Christ, from righteous Abel even unto this day. Do thou give them and us rest in the region of the living, whence sorrow, grief, and lamentation are banished away—where the light of thy countenance visits and shines continually; and vouchsafe to bring them and us to the full enjoyment of thy heavenly kingdom. And dispose the end of our lives in peace, that they may be Christian, well pleasing to thee, and free from sin; that so, with that innumerable company

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before the throne, we may sing praises evermore to thy glorious name, O Jesus, our Saviour, our Lord, and our God, in the unity of the Father and the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah. Amen.

FOR THE ENLARGEMENT OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.

REV. S. BICKERSTETH.

O eternal God, the Lord of glory, who hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm; the great, the mighty God, the Lord of Hosts, is thy name; thou, Lord, art good to all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works; thou art nigh unto all them that call upon thee, to all that call upon thee in truth.

We are bold, therefore, to come before thee, in behalf of a world lying in wickedness. Behold, in thy infinite compassion, dying millions, who have changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts; behold them, without Christ, strangers from the covenant of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world; filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, and malignity. Lord, we know that they who do such things, shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven. Regard then, we beseech thee, in pity, the sad effects of sin, the

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miserable condition of these thy creatures. Regard, O Lord, thine own glory. How long shall thy name be thus profaned? How long shall the Prince of darkness usurp the Saviour's promised inheritance and possession? Lord, how long shall the blessed hope, that the kingdoms of this world are to be the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ, tarry ere it come?

Lord, we believe thy promises; help our unbelief. We are persuaded that thou hast brought the wretched state of the world before the eyes of thy people, that they may pity millions of guilty, accountable, and immortal souls, without the knowledge of a Saviour; that, while there is time, they may pray, and give, and strive to make thy Gospel known among them. Our Saviour has commanded, "Go into the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature;" and thou hast promised, that thy word shall not return unto thee void. We confidently, therefore, ask thee to bless the cause of Christian missions, that it may advance, and grow, and increase, till every Christian heart become warmed with holy zeal for the spread of the Saviour's name, and kingdom, and glory, and the gospel of Christ be preached to Jew and Gentile throughout the world.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, we acknowledge it to be owing to thy infinite mercy that we are not left in the darkness of heathen lands. Thou didst incline thy servants of old to send faithful missionaries to preach thy glorious gospel; thou didst

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support them in all their trials and difficulties; and at length this favoured country became a Christian land. And, Lord, how hast thou since blessed us, above other nations, in the enjoyment of the light of thy truth, and in the power and means to communicate it! We feel that our privileges imply duties. Give us grace, then, to labour, that the word of the Lord may from us sound out in every place. We thank thee that thou hast given many the disposition to aid in this work, and that numbers of thy servants are united in societies, to send abroad the tidings of salvation. Lord, bless them all. Lord, greatly increase the number of all who have at heart the good of Zion.

We thank thee, O Lord, that thy holy word is translating into numerous different languages, and that now so many nations may hear in their own tongues the wonderful works of the Lord. Give yet greater success to their efforts. Facilitate this work by imparting more and more peculiar talents to those engaged therein. As thou didst give to thy servants of old peculiar skill in erecting the tabernacle in the wilderness, and the temple at Jerusalem, so in this age of thy Church do thou grant special gifts to those engaged in building up thy spiritual temple.

Lord, do thou prepare and call forth labourers. Qualify fit instruments to conduct missionary efforts, and give them faith, wisdom, and judgment, uprightness, patience, and self-denial, a single eye, and a single heart, in all their proceed-

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ings. So incline their minds, that they may send none to labour among the heathen, but those that are first chosen of thee—men anointed with the Holy Ghost. Raise up meek, humble, patient, believing, laborious, and persevering men, counting their work their wages, and looking for the recompense of reward hereafter; men suited to the exigencies of the heathen, in their various degrees of civilization and knowledge, and adapted to meet their wants in each particular situation; men willing to spend themselves, and be spent, for Christ.

Regard, we beseech thee, O Lord, with thy infinite love, those who have gone forth in thy name to heathen lands, to labour in making Christ known to the Gentiles. Help them to be followers of thy apostles. Grant that they may never lose that first love and ardour of mind which induced them, for Christ's sake, to leave country, home, friends, and relatives. Preserve them sound in doctrine, and pure in their life and conversation. In the faith of Christ may they vanquish the world, the flesh, and the devil, and overcome apparently insurmountable difficulties. Give unto them utterance, that they may open their mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the Gospel. Give them grace to hope even against hope; and in thy own good time, remove every opposing obstacle to the universal diffusion of thy truth. Let the course of thy providence prepare the way for thy servants. Let every fresh advance, either in

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commerce, science, or arts, aid the coming on of the Redeemer's kingdom; and all things work together for good, till all shall know thee, the only true God, from the least to the greatest.

And for this we entreat the full outpouring of thy Spirit upon all flesh; upon kings of the earth, and all people; upon all Christian ministers; upon young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for it alone is excellent, his glory is above the earth and heaven.

O Lord, we seek not our glory but thine. We pray that thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; that all nations may come before thee and glorify thy name. Lord, thou knowest our desires, we know not how to express them as we should. Do for us and thy Church exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus. Amen.

FIRST MORNING OF THE YEAR.

REV. T. COTTERILL.

Almighty and everlasting God, who livest and abidest for ever, with whom one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day; who wast, and who art, and who art to come; thou hast made our days as it were a span long, and our age is even as nothing in respect of thee; and verily every man living is altogether vanity.

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We consume away in thy displeasure, and are afraid of thy wrathful indignation. Thou hast set our misdeeds before thee, and our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. When thou art angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told.

But though we are thus doomed to suffer thy righteous sentence, yet we bless thee, O Lord, for not executing upon us the fierceness of thy anger.

We praise thee for the gift of him who was manifest in the flesh, that he might destroy death; and hath brought life and immortality to light by the gospel; in whom whosoever believeth shall live, though he die; and whosoever liveth and believeth in him shall not die eternally.

We give thee thanks, also, O heavenly Father, for sparing us from year to year, and for giving us farther space for trial and amendment. And we beseech thee still to spare us, O Lord most holy, O God most mighty, and at last to deliver us from the bitter pains of eternal death.

Mercifully grant that thy great goodness may lead us to repentance. With this new year, help us to begin a new life. Quicken us in the way of righteousness, that we may set out afresh in our Christian course, and may cleave unto thee with fuller purpose of heart. Other lords besides thee have had dominion over us, but hereafter by thee only may we be named, presenting ourselves a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto thee, which is our reasonable service.

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Give us grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and, with pure hearts and minds, to follow thee, the only true God.

"O thou who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men, grant unto us that we may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold temptations of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found."

Our days pass away as a dream, and we all fade like the leaves. Our years are determined with thee, and the number of our days; thou hast appointed the bounds that we cannot pass.

Let us never forget, O Lord, the solemn and affecting truth, that this year we may die. Let us not boast ourselves even of to-morrow, for we know not what a day may bring forth, and there may be but a step between us and death. Enable us to work while it is called to-day, before the night cometh when no man can work. Whatever good our hand findeth to do, may we do it with all our might, since there is no work, nor device, nor wisdom, nor knowledge in the grave, whither we are going.

Pour down, O Lord, thy choicest blessings on all our fellow-creatures, according to their various wants.

Be merciful unto those who have lived a life of carelessness and sin. Give them grace to think on their ways, and to turn their feet unto thy

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testimonies, before the things that belong to their peace are for ever hidden from their eyes.

Turn the hearts of such as have set their affections on this world, and are minding only earthly things. Awaken them to a sense of their danger, by the remembrance that time is short; and teach them henceforth to use the world without abusing it, seeing that the fashion of it passeth away.

May those who have deferred their repentance from year to year see the danger of farther delay, and be led to consider that now is the appointed time, now is the day of salvation.

Look in pity upon them who, having once escaped the pollutions of the world, are again entangled therein, and overcome, and are now led captive by Satan at his will. Burst their chains of bondage, and restore them to the way of righteousness.

Be gracious unto all who have chosen that good part which none can take from them. Keep them in the way in which they should go; may they proceed from strength to strength, till every one of them appeareth before thee in Zion.

Look with special favour upon those, the days of whose pilgrimage are drawing to a close, and the time of whose departure is at hand. Even in their old age be thou with them, and in their hoary hairs do thou support them. And when thou hast guided them here by thy counsel, receive them hereafter to the kingdom of thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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LAST EVENING OF THE YEAR.

REV. WILLIAM JAY.

O God, thou hast been our refuge and dwelling place in all generations; before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God. And a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday, when it is past, and as a watch in the night. But as for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field so he flourisheth; for the wind passeth over it and it is gone, and the place thereof knoweth it no more.

We appear in thy presence, to close before thee another of the years of our short lives; and we earnestly pray that the season may not pass away without suitable and serious reflections. When a few years are come, we shall go the way whence we shall not return. We know not at what hour the Son of man cometh. But we know that our life is a vapour, we know the frailty of our frame, and the numberless diseases and disasters to which we are exposed. O teach us so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. While numbers of our fellow-creatures, and many of them much more likely to have continued here than ourselves, have, during the past year, been carried to their long home — we have been preserved, and are living to praise

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thee this day. Blessed be the God of salvation, to whom belong the issues from death, that we are yet in the regions of hope, that we have yet an accepted time, and a day of salvation, and that our opportunities of doing good, as well as of gaining benefit, are still prolonged.

Thou hast commanded us to remember all the way which thou hast led us in the wilderness. The scene of our journeying has indeed been a wilderness, but the Lord that conducted us is divine; and we have enjoyed numerous privileges.

Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, neither rewarded us according to our iniquities. Many are the blessings which present themselves to our minds, when we look back upon the year through which we have passed; and to what, but to thy unmerited goodness, are we indebted for all? Health, strength, food, raiment, comforts, hope, usefulness,—all our benefits have flowed from thy gracious hand: and there has not been a day, or an hour, or a moment, which has not published thy kindness and thy care.

Especially would we acknowledge thy goodness, in continuing to us the means of grace, and the provisions of thy house. The toils and trials of the week have been refreshed and relieved by the delight of the Sabbath. Our eyes have seen our teachers, and our ears heard the joyful sound of the Gospel.

To thee, O Lord, belong glory and honour, but to us shame and confusion of face. Who can

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understand his errors! O how many duties have we neglected or improperly performed! How little have we improved our talents, or redeemed our time! How little have we been alive to thy glory, or sought opportunities of serving our generation!

God be merciful to us sinners. Pardon our iniquity, for it is great; cleanse us from all unrighteousness; and work in us to will and to do of thy good pleasure. With a new portion of time may we have new hearts, and become new creatures.

If in another year we should die, may death prove our eternal gain; and if our days are prolonged, may we walk before the Lord in the land of the living, and shew forth all thy praise. The number of our months is with thee. In thy hand our breath is, and thine are all our ways. Prepare us for all events, and bring us safely through all, unto the rest that remains for thy people, for the sake of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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THE

SPIRITUAL SACRIFICE.

PART SECOND—PRIVATE PRAYERS.

SUNDAY MORNING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O HOLY JESUS, Son of the eternal God, thy glory is far above all heavens, and yet thou didst descend to earth, that thy descent might be the more gracious, in proportion to thy glories being admirable and transcendent; I adore thy holy humanity with humble veneration, and with religious joy, because thou hast personally united human nature to the eternal word, carrying it above the seats of the highest cherubim. This great and glorious mystery is the honour and glory of man: it was the expectation of our fathers, who beheld the mystery of thy incarnation at great and obscure distances. And blessed

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be thy name, that thou hast caused me to be born after the fulfilling of the prophecies, and the consummation of such abundant love. Holy Saviour, I admire with reverence, and adore in humility, the immensity of thy love and condescension, who wert pleased to undergo our burdens, and submit to our infirmities, which were so great in themselves, and so inadmissible to the purity of God, that to destroy sin, and save man, it became necessary that thou shouldst be sent into the world, to die our death, and to give us of thy life. Most blessed Lord, whose life and doctrine was a treasure of wisdom, and a repository of divine materials for meditation, give me grace to understand, diligence to apply, attention to consider, care to lay up, and solicitude to reduce to practice, all those actions, discourses, and intimations by which thou didst tacitly, simply, expressly teach, or mysteriously signify the duty of thy creatures.

And now that I am going to thy courts, give me an attentive ear, and an humble mind, that I may offer up my prayers with devout fervour, my thanksgivings with holy joy, and that thy heavenly word read and preached, may edify my heart, and direct and influence my life. Let thy Holy Spirit dwell in my soul, improving my knowledge, sanctifying my thoughts, guiding my affections, directing my will in the choice of good, that it may be the great employment of my life to meditate on thy law, to study thy will, to

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understand every part of my duty, that ignorance may neither occasion a sin, nor become a punishment. Take from me all vanity of spirit, lightness of fancy, curiosity of inquiry. Let my thoughts be as my religion, plain, honest, pious, simple, prudent, and charitable, powerful in the production of good and extermination of evil, suffering no transports of sense and vanity, nothing that may minister to spiritual pride and vainglory; but let my heart be possessed with love, and that love wholly exercised in such actions as shall be acceptable unto thee, till thou shalt please to reveal thy glories in thy heavenly kingdom; which grant, for thy mercies' sake, O holy and eternal Jesus. Amen.

Now, in all tribulation and anguish of spirit, in all dangers of soul and body, in prosperity and adversity, in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment, most blessed Saviour, have mercy upon me, save me, and deliver me, and all thy faithful people. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

NEW MANUAL OF DEVOTION.

O most great, most glorious, and eternal God! thou Sovereign Lord of heaven and earth! what glory, and honour, and adoration are due unto thee! O Lord, when I consider the greatness of thy Majesty, and remember that thou art a God

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that hast no pleasure in wickedness, and that thou hatest all them that work iniquity, how shall I dare to appear before thee, or presume to offer up any prayers at the throne of thy grace, I who am a sinful creature, having many ways offended thy Divine Majesty. Lord, my only hope is in thy tender mercies, which have been even of old, and in that pity and compassion which thou hast shewn to mankind in the redemption of the world by the death of thy dear Son. For his name's sake, O Lord, pardon, I beseech thee, all my past sins, that iniquity may not be my ruin. Lay not to my charge the sins of which I have this day been guilty. Forgive the deadness of my devotion, the coldness of my affection, the wandering of my prayers, and all the multitude of my other defects; and, O merciful Father, let not my abuse of thy goodness deprive me of the means of grace and opportunities of salvation, nor deliver me over to my own foolish and perverse will.

Let me never fall into a careless and unconcerned state of mind, into coldness and indifference towards the duties of religion. Give me, O Lord, such a sense and conviction of the shortness and uncertainty of this life, and of the momentous concerns of eternity, that I may not be so foolish and inconsiderate as to waste that precious time thou hast put into my hands in an eager pursuit after the things of this world; but grant that I may employ it in such a manner as may best promote thy glory and my own salvation. Let

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me follow the things that are for my peace, and give all diligence to make my calling and election sure.

Be thou pleased to extend thy compassion to the whole race of mankind; let the brightness of the Gospel shine into all the corners of the earth, that those who live in darkness may be enlightened to the knowledge and practice of thy laws, and their souls be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Be gracious to thy holy Church in this nation; inspire all our pastors with a spirit of true religion and godliness, and make them zealous and diligent for the eternal welfare of all under their charge.

O Lord, bless the Queen, and all magistrates and rulers placed over us; grant them grace to please thee, in faithfully performing their several duties. O merciful Father, have pity upon all persons in affliction or distress, poverty or persecution, under bodily pains or diseases, under temptation or trouble of mind. O Lord, be pleased to comfort and support them, and to deliver them in due time according to thy mercy.

Send down the graces of thy Spirit upon all my friends and relations. Pardon all our sins; unite our hearts in a mutual love of each other; and vouchsafe to every one of us, and all others that either pray for me or desire my prayers, whatever thy infinite wisdom knows to be most needful and expedient both for our souls and bodies. Reward those who have done me good,

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and pardon those who have done me evil. And now, O Father, I offer up my most unfeigned praises for all those mercies and benefits which thou hast vouchsafed me. I bless thee more particularly for the mercies of the day past — for whatever sin I have escaped, and whatever good I may have done — for preserving me in safety and the enjoyment of many comforts; but above all, I magnify thy holy name for thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

O let not these mercies be bestowed on me in vain, but give me grace to make a right use of them, that thou mayest still continue to be my Safety and Defence amidst the calamities of this mortal life; and at length may I be admitted to thine everlasting kingdom, through our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

REV. THOMAS BECON.

O heavenly Father, who, like a diligent watchman, attendest always upon thy faithful people, whether they wake or sleep, and mightily defendest them, not only from Satan, that old enemy of mankind, but also from all other adversaries, so that, through thy godly power, they are preserved harmless, I most heartily thank thee that it hath pleased thy fatherly goodness so to take care of me, thine unprofitable servant, this night

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past, that thou hast both safely kept me from all mine enemies, and also hast given me sweet sleep, to strengthen and refresh me. I most heartily beseech thee, O most merciful Father, to shew the like kindness towards me this day, in preserving my body and soul, that my enemies may have no power over me, and that I, likewise, may neither think, breathe, speak, or do any thing that may be displeasing to thy fatherly goodness, dangerous to myself, or hurtful to my neighbour; but that all my enterprises may be agreeable to thy most blessed will, which is always good and godly, doing that which may advance thy glory, answer to my vocation, and profit my neighbour, whom I ought to love as myself; that whensoever thou callest me from this vale of tears, I may be found the child, not of darkness, but of light, and so for ever reign with thee in glory, who art the true and everlasting light; to whom, with thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, and the Holy Ghost, that most sweet Comforter, be all honour and glory. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

REV. THOMAS BECON.

O Lord God, and my heavenly Father, forasmuch as, by thy divine ordinance, the night approaches, and darkness begins to overwhelm the earth, and time requires that we give ourselves

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to bodily rest and quietness, I render unto thee most hearty thanks for thy loving-kindness, who hast vouchsafed to preserve me this day from the danger of mine enemies, to give me health, to feed me, and to send me all things necessary for the comfort of this my poor and needy life. I most heartily beseech thee for Jesus Christ's sake, that thou mayest mercifully forgive me all that I have this day committed against thy fatherly goodness, either in word, deed, or thought. And that thou wilt vouchsafe to shadow me this night under the comfortable wings of thy Almighty power, and defend me from Satan, and from all his crafty assaults, that neither he nor any of his ministers shall have power over either my body or my soul; but that, although my body, through thy benefits, enjoys sweet and pleasant sleep, yet my soul may continually watch unto thee, think of thee, delight in thee, and evermore praise thee; and when the joyful light of day returns according to thy godly appointment, I may rise again with a faithful soul, and undefiled body, and so afterward behave myself all the time of my life, according to thy blessed will and commandment, by casting away the works of darkness, and putting on the armour of light, that men, seeing my good works, may thereby be led to glorify thee, my heavenly Father, who, with thy only begotten Son Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, and the Holy Ghost, that most sweet Comforter, livest and reignest, one true and everlasting God, world without end. Amen.

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TUESDAY MORNING.

PRINCE EUGENE OF SAVOY.

I believe in thee, O my God; do thou strengthen my faith; I hope in thee — confirm my hopes; I love thee — augment my love towards thee more and more daily; I repent of all my sins, but do thou increase my repentance. As my first beginning, I worship thee; as my last end, I long for thee; as my eternal Benefactor, I praise thee; and, as my supreme Protector, I pray unto thee, that it may please thee, O Lord, to guide and lead me by thy providence, to keep me in obedience by thy justice, to comfort me by thy mercy, and to protect me by thy almighty power. I submit to thee all my thoughts, words, and actions, as well as my afflictions, pains, and sufferings; and I desire to have thee always in my mind, to do all my works in thy name, and for thy sake to bear all adversity with patience. I will what thou wilt, O God, because it is agreeable to thee.

O give me grace, that I may be attentive in my prayer, temperate in my diet, vigilant in my conduct, and unmoveable in all good purposes. Grant, most merciful Lord, that I may be true and faithful to all those who place any trust and confidence in me; may I be courteous and kind to all men; and, both in my words and actions, shew unto them a good example.

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Dispose my heart to admire and praise thy goodness, to hate all evil works, to love my neighbour, and to despise the world. Good Lord, assist me in subduing the flesh by mortification, covetousness by liberality, anger by mildness, and lukewarmness by zeal and fervency. Enable me to conduct myself with prudence in all transactions, to shew courage in danger, patience in adversity, and in prosperity an humble mind. Let thy grace illuminate my understanding, direct my will, sanctify my body, and bless my soul.

Make me diligent in curbing all irregular affections, zealous in imploring thy grace, careful in keeping thy commandments, and constant in working out my salvation. Finally, O Lord, make me sensible how little is this world, how great thy heavens, how short time, and how long a blessed eternity! O that I may learn to prepare myself well for death! that I may dread thy judgments, avoid the torments of hell, and obtain of thee, O God, eternal life, through the righteousness and merits of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

EARL OF CLARENDON.

Blessed Lord! I do most earnestly beseech of thee to correct and subdue all those proud and lofty thoughts which would persuade me that there is any thing in me which can deserve the

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least favour from thee, or that I am better than others of my fellow-creatures, because I enjoy some blessings which they do not possess. If thou dost vouchsafe to bestow prosperity upon me, I acknowledge it thy bounty, and infinitely above my merit; and if thou dost afflict me with the loss of friends, of fortune, or of liberty, or of health, I confess that it is much less than my sins have deserved, and that it is of thy great mercy I am not absolutely consumed. O Lord, open mine eyes that I may have a clear uninterrupted sight of all the wonderful things which thou hast done for me. Let me not live as if I were a stranger to thy commandments, and know not what is my duty to thee. Infuse into my heart such an awe and fear of displeasing thee, that no allurements and invitations of the false pleasures of the world may seduce me from my obedience to thee, no scoffs and reproaches of wicked and profane persons may lessen my reverence towards thy holy commandments, and may no example of any person soever lead me to such actions as may avert thy fatherly kindness from me.

Gracious Father, grant me to have a due, full, and devout consideration of the necessary and unavoidable shortness, and the evident vanity, of this life, and all the falsely esteemed pleasures and benefits of this world; and suppress in me all inordinate affection and appetite towards such transitory delight. Work in me a true value and estimation of that eternity of joy or sorrow

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which will attend me in the next; and, to that purpose, dispose my entire hope and confidence solely towards thee, and all my endeavours to please thy holy will. Mercifully forgive all my sins, and remove far from me the punishment due to my offences. Hear my earnest prayer, and be not silent, good Lord, to the grief and lamentation of my heart; and, if it be thy blessed will, give me in this life that peace of mind which passeth all understanding; and, in the world to come, let me not fail of that true happiness of living with thee to all eternity, through the redeeming blood and prevailing intercession of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

O thou most righteous and impartial Judge, who despisest not the mean, nor acceptest the persons of the mighty, make me always to remember, and seriously to consider, that none of those outward privileges I may enjoy among men can exempt me from thy severe tribunal; but I shall one day be brought to judgment, as for all that I have done in the flesh, so, particularly for those special and peculiar advantages whereby thou hast discriminated me from others of my brethren; and let these terrors of the Lord timely persuade, yea, constrain me to a cheerful

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employing of all I have received to those ends for which thou hast bestowed them. Lord, grant that the knowledge thou hast given me may have such an efficacy on my practice, that it may always guide, never upbraid me. And as thou hast opened thy hand wide to me in blessings, so enlarge my heart in thankfulness toward thee, and in compassion and bounty to my fellow-creatures. Grant me that true enjoyment which consists in a charitable dispensing of thy mercies, that, forsaking all the unsatisfactory pleasures of luxury, I may purchase to myself a more solid delight.

O never suffer me to incur the guilty reproach of being more remiss or indifferent in my intercourse with thee, than others are of their traffic with the world, — of having less care of my own and other men's immortal souls, than they have of their corruptible bodies; but make me so industriously to husband every minute of that precious time thou lendest me here, as may be in order to a blessed eternity, both to myself and as many more as thou shalt put within my reach. Let not any persons ever have cause to accuse me for betraying them into sin here, or misery hereafter; but grant that, in all humility, my example may convey such wholesome instruction, as may nourish all Christian practice among those around me. May I never contribute to that power and empire which vice has gotten in the world; but, with a steady courage, oppose all impiety, how customary

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or successful soever; and let me think nothing honourable but what bears thy stamp and impress. Good Lord, grant that, by an assiduous practice of all duty, I may arrive to such a relish for it, as may utterly supplant all sensual delight in my own heart, qualifying me experimentally to assure others how sweet is the service of the Lord; that, though an unworthy, I may be an effectual instrument in thy hand for drawing many to the obedience of Christ; and, renouncing all the vain torturing ambitions of this world, I may aspire to no other honour but that of being approved by thee as a good and faithful servant; that, by thy mercy, having my infirmities covered, and my sincerity accepted, I may at last be admitted into the joy of my Lord, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my blessed Saviour and Mediator. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

O blessed Lord, I, thy wretched creature, thy not only unprofitable and slothful, but wicked servant, do here most humbly acknowledge that I have perversely and treacherously misemployed those many precious talents wherewith thou hast intrusted me. I have, O Lord, unworthily abased those common mercies which thou hast afforded me as a rational being and a Christian, my whole

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life having been a continued resistance to the dictates both of reason and religion; and I have yet farther perverted those more special liberalities, whereby thou hast essayed to vanquish an ungrateful heart. My knowledge hath had no influence on my choices, but I have obstinately pursued those ways which I knew lead unto perdition, and, by advancing my sins from ignorances to presumptions, hath served only to make me liable to the greater punishment. Those gifts whereby I should have glorified thee, I have converted into fuel to maintain covetousness, pride, and luxury, so levying war against thee with thine own treasure. Thus unfaithful, O Lord, have I been in the unrighteous mammon; and who, then, shall commit to my trust the true riches? That time thou hast given me to work out my own salvation, I have vain-gloriously wasted, nay, often so viciously and impiously, that idleness may be considered the most silent of all my guilts, the greater part of my days having been devoted to the pursuit and enjoyment of my own pleasures; and of those many years thou hast afforded me, how few are the minutes of which I can give any tolerable account to thee, or my own soul. And now, O Lord, how unknown, astonishing a weight of sin lies upon me! Merciful Father, who delightest not in the death of a sinner, look with pity upon me; give me a sincere and earnest repentance, that I may be as contributive to the recovery of my fellow-creatures as I

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have been to their fall by my evil example. And let the consciousness of my great sloth and unfaithfulness in all the parts of my stewardship excite me to a more diligent and industrious improvement of all those advantages thou hast put into my hands, for thy glory, the benefit of my brethren, and the eternal joy of my own soul.

Most gracious and bountiful art thou unto all; but thou, O Lord, hast in an extraordinary manner abounded to me, thy unworthy servant, and I desire with all my heart to confess this thy great goodness. Thou hast not only given me a natural life, and a capacity for a spiritual existence, but thou hast also enriched me with many advantages for the comfortable support of the one, and the happy improvement of the other. Thou hast liberally given me of the dew of heaven, and fatness of the earth. O let not my heart remain dry, whilst all around it is thus plentifully watered from heaven. Thou hast done so much for this meanest plant in thy vineyard, drest it and fenced it about with thy grace and providence, and, having built a wine-press, mayest reasonably expect some clusters to be brought to it at the vintage. O let not so gracious a demand be frustrated. When thou lookest it should bring forth grapes, let it not bring forth wild grapes. Let not those advantages I may enjoy above others, tempt me to exalt myself, or despise them; but grant me always to remember that it is only thou that makest me to differ from others. Lord,

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let thy methods be my documents; thy dispensations of mercy and indulgence, the engagements and bonds of the closest and most inviolable duty; that the happiness of the condition wherein thou hast placed me in this world, may be an effectual admonition to me to abound in righteousness, that in all things I may glorify my heavenly Father, and find acceptance, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and blessed Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O eternal God, whose perfections are infinite, whose mercies are glorious, whose justice is severe, whose eyes are pure, whose judgments are wise; be pleased to look upon the infirmities of thy servant, and consider my weakness. My spirit is willing, but my flesh is weak. I desire to please thee, but in my endeavours I fail so often, so foolishly, so unreasonably, that I displease myself, and have too great reason to fear that thou also art displeased with me. O Lord, I know my duty; I resolve to do it; I know my dangers, and stand upon my guard against them; but when they come near, I begin to be pleased, and am seized upon by folly, even when with greatest severity I decree against it. Blessed Jesus, pity me, and have mercy upon my infirmities.

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O God, I humbly beg to be relieved in my weakness, and supported in my resolutions, by thy grace, for I bear about me a body of sin and death: sin comes upon me in every thing I do or suffer. When I do well, I am apt to be proud; when I do amiss, I am sometimes too confident, sometimes affrighted and desponding. My duties are imperfect, my passions great, my fancy trifling; the sins of my tongue are very many, my omissions infinite, my evil thoughts cannot be numbered; and concerning the innumerable portions of time which were once in my own power, I can give no account, having been partly spent in sin, or let slip, or been thrown away upon trifles and vanity; and even of the basest sins, of which in the account of men I am most innocent, I am guilty before thee, entertaining those sins in little instances, thoughts, desires, and imaginations, which I dared not openly to commit. Blessed Lord, pity me, and have mercy upon my infirmities.

Teach me, O Lord, to walk before thee in righteousness. Give me an obedient will, a loving spirit, a humble understanding, watchfulness over my thoughts, deliberation in all my words and actions, well-tempered passions, and a directing prudence, a discreet zeal, and a pervading charity, that I may do my duty wisely, holily, diligently. O let me be humbled in my infirmities, but let me be also safe from mine enemies; let me never fall by their violence, nor by my own weak-

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ness; let me never be overcome by them, nor yet give myself up to folly and weak principles, to idleness, to security, and to carelessness; but give me the strength of thy Spirit, that I may grow strong upon the ruins of the flesh, growing from grace to grace, till I become perfect in Christ Jesus. O let thy strength be seen in my weakness, and let thy mercy triumph over my infirmities; pitying the condition of my nature, the infancy of grace, the imperfection of knowledge, the transports of my passions.

Let me never consent to sin, but for ever strive against it, and every day prevail, till it be entirely dead in me; that thy servant, living the life of grace, may at last be admitted to that state of glory where all my infirmities shall be done away, and all tears dried up, and sin and death shall be no more.

Lord, I beseech thee that all my relations and kindred, my family and friends, may receive the benefit of my prayers, and the blessings of God, the comforts and supports of thy providence, and the sanctification of thy Spirit.

Relieve all the afflicted, speak peace to those who are disturbed in mind, enlighten and instruct the heathen, and all who are ignorant, and bring us all unto thy kingdom, through him who is the way, the truth, and the life eternal, Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

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THURSDAY EVENING.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

Eternal God, merciful and glorious, thou art exalted far above all heavens; thy throne, O God, is glory, and thy sceptre is righteousness; thy will is holiness, and thy wisdom the great foundation of empire and government. I adore thy majesty, rejoice in thy mercy, revere thy power, and confess all glory, and dignity, and honour to be thine alone; but as for me, I am but dust and ashes; a mass of ignorance, and sin, and shame, and death. O Lord, what art thou? The great God of heaven and earth, the fountain of holiness, and perfection infinite. But what am I? So ignorant, that I know not what; so poor, that I have nothing of my own; so miserable, that I am the heir of sorrow and death; and so sinful, that I am encompassed with shame and grief. Use, O God, what means thou pleasest to conform me to the image of thy holy Son; that I may be gentle to others, and severe to myself; that I may sit down in the lowest place, striving to go before my brethren in nothing but in doing him honour, and staying for my glory till thou shalt please, in the day of recompense, to reflect light from thy face, and admit me to behold thy glories.

Most holy Jesus, who by death hast overcome death, and by thy passion hast taken out its sting,

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and made it to become one of the gates of heaven, and an entrance to felicity; have mercy upon me now, and at the hour of death. Let thy grace accompany me all the days of my life, that I may, by a holy conversation, and a habitual performance of my duty, wait for the coming of our Lord, and be ready to enter with thee at whatever hour thou shalt come. Let my sense and my understanding be preserved entire till the last of my days; and grant that I may die the death of the righteous, free from debt and deadly sin, having first discharged all my obligations of justice. Lord, be thou the portion of all my beloved friends and relations, both in this world and the next; let thy blessing descend upon their heads, and abide there till we shall all meet in the bosom of our Lord.

Preserve me ever in the communion and peace of thy Church, and bless me with a strong faith and a firm and humble hope, with patience and dereliction of my own desires, with just measures of repentance towards thee my God, and great treasures of charity to all the world; that my soul, relying upon Jesus, may be deposited with him in safety and joy, there to expect the revelation of thy day, and then partake of the glories of thy kingdom for evermore. Amen.

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FRIDAY MORNING.

PAUL SEGNERI.

O Lord my God, enable me to bear in mind that I am but a pilgrim travelling towards eternity, and, therefore, may I consider how fruitless to me will be the placing of all my affections, hope, and reliance, upon a condition which is but changeable and transitory.

The termination of my earthly journey will lead me to an eternal habitation of heavenly happiness, or perpetual anguish; teach me to remember that the one or the other must be my portion, and to reflect whether all the sinful delights and vain-glorious engagements of time can counterbalance the intolerable miseries of a despairing eternity. Lord, the desire of obtaining the reward promised to thy faithful servants, should elevate my ambition above all the honours and possessions of the world; grant me grace to render myself worthy of the salvation offered me by thy mercy, through the merits of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Destroy within me, O gracious Father, all sinful pride and presumption; the knowledge of my own unworthiness, the frailty of my corrupt nature, and the constant struggles between thy grace and my perverse will, make me implore thy help, and seek of thee to be meek and lowly.

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I ask not that great things be done by my means, but that I may not, by pride of heart or slothfulness, hinder the furtherance of thy gracious designs towards myself and others.

In my behaviour to my fellow-creatures let me ever consider all men as my brethren, and even the most unworthy as deserving of tenderness and compassion, doing good unto them for thy sake; and, loving thee, let me love them also, forgiving them as I desire to be forgiven, and shewing that mercy to their infirmities which I hope for from others, and, unworthy as I am, daily receive from thy bounty.

Blessed Lord, for the many benefits bestowed upon me, from the time I entered this life, I thank thee; may the remembrance of them be present with me, teaching me to follow thee, to lead a life of faith, and hope, and charity, to be poor in spirit, abounding in love, actuated by faith, and hoping for the recompense promised by thy word.

Grant me grace, O Father, to continue steadfast unto the end, to pray without ceasing for thy help: in all events, and in every situation, to love, honour, and obey thy commandments, to live and to die as the faithful servant of our blessed Redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

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FRIDAY EVENING.

NEW MANUAL OF DEVOTION.

O most glorious and eternal Lord God, who art the great Creator of heaven and earth, and the source and fountain of all good, look graciously upon thy servant who now comes to offer up the humble tribute of unfeigned praise to thy Divine Majesty, from a heart truly moved with a sense of thy infinite and unspeakable goodness.

I bless thee, O Lord, for creating me at first out of nothing, for causing me to be born of Christian parents, and for admitting me by holy baptism into the communion of thy Church; for all the helps and assistances of thy grace which I have since had to enable me in any measure to perform the engagements that were then made on my behalf; for implanting in my mind an early fear of offending thee, and a great desire of pleasing thee; for whatever sin I have at any time escaped, and whatever good I have done through the whole course of my life.

O Lord, I bless thee for all thy patience and forbearance towards me; for sparing me so long, and giving me so large a space for repentance; for all the motions of thy good Spirit, and the checks and restraints of my own conscience; for the many opportunities thou hast given me of serving thee, and calling upon thy name, and for

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all the means of grace and hopes of glory; but above all I magnify, I bless, I adore thy great and glorious name for sending thy Son into the world, to die for the redemption of me and all mankind.

I bless thee, likewise, O Lord, for all the temporal mercies which I have received from thy most bountiful hand; for that measure of health I have enjoyed, and for the many friends and relations thou hast given me; for delivering me from the great calamities I have justly deserved, and with which many of thy best and dearest servants have been visited. To thee I ascribe my having the use of my senses, and of my reason; that I am not languishing upon a bed of sickness, nor groaning under the sharpest pains; that I am not pining with want, nor forced to beg my daily bread, but am supplied with competence, and see so many comforts around me. It is by thee alone, O Lord, my affairs do in the least prosper, or that my undertakings in any measure succeed; it is thy wisdom that directs me, thy truth that instructs me, and thy power that at all times preserves me.

Blessed be thy name for the opportunity this day vouchsafed me of humbling myself before thee. Pardon, I most humbly beseech thee, all my failings and defects even at this time, the wanderings of my prayers, the coldness of my affections, and the disproportion of my repentance to the heinousness of those sins which I have

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committed: what returns can I, a sinner, make unto thee, for all thy marvellous love and mercy? O let my mouth daily proclaim thy praise; and grant that I may prove my sincerity by a holy life and conversation; by walking before thee in all godliness and honesty; by serving thee faithfully, and making a right use of all those blessings thou bestowest on me; by studying to please thee in all things, and doing every thing that becomes the servant of so kind and bountiful a master.

O let me never behave myself so ungratefully, as to provoke thee to withdraw thy mercies from me: but give me such a lively sense of thy love as may excite my thankfulness, and engage me to pay a willing and cheerful obedience to thy commandments; that devoting myself to thy service, I may daily grow in grace, and be continually advancing to new degrees of thy favour; that so these blessings here, may be an earnest of thy future mercies; which I beseech thee to grant me for the sake of thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed, as is most due, all honour, glory, power, thanksgiving, and praise, both now and for evermore. Amen.

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SATURDAY MORNING.

ROBERT NELSON.

Almighty and eternal God, who hast created me after thine own image and likeness, who hast made me capable of loving and enjoying thee eternally, I adore thee, with all humility, as my Sovereign Lord; give me, I beseech thee, such a sense of thy infinite goodness, as to return unto thee all possible love and obedience.

O thou upon whom all things depend, I acknowledge that I have nothing but what is the effect of thy bounty. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and declare his loving-kindness to all generations. I humbly and heartily thank thee for all the graces and favours thou hast bestowed upon me—for making me a rational creature, and for securing my preservation by the constant effects of thy providence—for redeeming me by the death of thy Son, and for providing the grace of thy Holy Spirit to sanctify my corrupt nature—for bringing me to the knowledge of the Christian religion—for blessing me with plentiful means of salvation, and for preparing a glorious inheritance for those that love thee and keep thy commandments—for the many temporal blessings thou hast conferred upon me—for repairing the infirmities of my frail body with comfortable rest and sleep—for preserving me from innumerable accidents and dangers.

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O may I always delight to praise and glorify thy holy name, and, above all thy benefits, to love thee, my great Benefactor.

O Father of mercies, I most humbly implore the pardon and forgiveness of all my sins, whether of omission or commission, for the sake of Jesus Christ thy only Son, our Lord. I am heartily sorry that I have offended against thee, and detest my sins, because they are displeasing to thee, who art infinite goodness; and I resolve, by the assistance of thy grace, to return no more to folly, to avoid all occasions of evil, and to live better for the time to come.

I dedicate to thee my body and soul, and all that I am; and because, through the weakness of my mortal nature, I can do no good thing without thee, grant that all I shall do or suffer this day, by the help of thy grace, may tend to thy glory, and salvation of my own soul. Enlighten my mind with a true and thorough knowledge of my duty, and enable me, by thy Holy Spirit, to perform it with care and diligence. Make me sensible of my own vileness and corruption, and let me never want thy gracious assistance to correct and reform it. Let me frame a right judgment concerning the vanity and emptiness of all transitory enjoyments, that they may never prevail upon me to transgress thy holy laws; but that, by the contempt of them, I may fix my heart upon those pleasures which are at thy right hand for evermore. And grant that all the afflic-

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tions of this life, which thou in thy wise providence shalt think fit to lay upon me, may turn to my spiritual profit and advantage; that I may bear them with patience, and submission to thy holy will, and thereby learn greater gratitude to thy goodness for the mercies I enjoy. Let no anxious or solicitous cares ever disorder or distract my mind, but let me trust in thy providence to bless my honest diligence; being assured, that if I seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, all other things shall be added unto me.

Defend me by thy almighty power from all the temptations and dangers to which I am subject in my earthly pilgrimage; may all my thoughts, words, and actions, be so guided by thy Holy Spirit, that I may ever seek thy honour and glory, and my chief employment be to fit and prepare myself for thy promised salvation.

Keep me this day in innocence, and in love to thee and all men. Let me manage all my temporal affairs with uprightness and integrity; that walking faithfully before thee all my days, and being found watching when my appointed time shall come, I may from a life of righteousness be removed to a life of glory, through the merits of my Redeemer. Amen.

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SATURDAY EVENING.

PRIMER OF KING EDWARD VI.

O merciful Father, grant me to covet, with a fervent mind, those things which may please thee; to search them wisely, to know them truly, and to fulfil them perfectly, to the laud and glory of thy name. Order my living, so that I may do that which thou requirest of me; and give me grace that I may know it, and have power and will to do it; that I may obtain those things which be most convenient for my soul. Good Lord, make my way straight and sure before thee, so that I fall not between prosperity and adversity, but that in prosperity I may give thee thanks, and in adversity be patient; so that I be not lift up with the one, nor oppressed with the other. And may I rejoice in nothing, but that which moveth me to thee, and sorrow for nothing, but that which draweth me away from thee; desiring to please none, nor fearing to displease any, besides thee, my Lord. Let all worldly things be vile unto me for thee, and be thou, above all, my most special comfort. Let me not be merry with the joy that is without thee, and let me desire nothing besides thee; let that labour delight me which is for thee, and let all the rest weary me which is not in thee. Make me to lift up my heart oftentimes unto thee, and

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when I fall, make me to think on thee, and be sorry, with a steadfast purpose of amendment. My God, make me humble without feigning—cheerful without lightness—sad without mistrust—sober without dulness—true without doubleness—fearing thee without desperation—trusting thee without presumption—telling my neighbours their faults meekly, without dissimulation—teaching them, by words and examples, without mockings—obedient without arguing—patient without grudging, and pure without corruption. Most loving Lord and God, give me a wakened heart, that no curious thoughts withdraw me from thee; let it be so strong, that no unworthy affection draw me backward—so stablished, that no tribulation break it. My Lord and Father, grant me wisdom to know thee, diligence to seek, godly conversation to please, and finally, hope to embrace thee, for the precious blood sake of that immaculate Lamb, our only Saviour, Jesus Christ; to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, three persons and one God, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

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PRAYERS

FOR

PARTICULAR GRACES.

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD.

THOMAS A KEMPIS.

O LORD my God, thou art my supreme and consummate good! And what am I, to presume to open my lips before thee? Yet poor and unprofitable as I am, remember me, O Lord, and have mercy upon me, for without thee I have nothing, can do nothing, and am nothing. Thou alone art just, and good, and holy. Remember, O Lord, the love that brought me into being; and as thou madest all things for the communication of thy blessedness and perfections, O fill me with thyself!

When I am left to the disorderly workings of nature and self, behold, I am all weakness and misery! but when thy love cometh upon my soul, my weakness is made strong, and my misery turned into joy. This change is the pure effect of thy infinite love, preventing me in all unholy desires, succouring me in all necessities, protecting

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me from imminent dangers, and delivering me from innumerable unknown evils.

By the love of myself, I lose myself; but by the love and pursuit of thee alone, I have both found thee and found myself; and the more pure this love, the more truly does it shew me my own nothingness: for thou, O most beloved Redeemer, hast been merciful to me beyond all that I could either ask, or hope, or conceive.

Lord, give me that love which knoweth no limits, feeleth no burden, considereth no labour; which surpasseth all sweetness, or strength, or height, or depth, or breadth; which findeth no rest in created things, but ever seeketh him from whom it is derived.

May thy love make me circumspect, humble, and equitable, sober and chaste, constant and persevering, peaceful and calm, submissive and obedient, devout and thankful, even when thy consolations are suspended; for in this fallen life, love is not exempt from pain.

O thou supreme good, expand my heart to receive thy most excellent gift, filling me with faith, and patience, and courage. Let me rejoice in thee exceedingly, and in thee, love all thy creatures, as that perfect love requireth, which is a ray of the infinite love that shines in thee.

Blessing, and praise, and glory, be unto thee, O heavenly Father, and to thy only begotten Son, our beloved Saviour, and to thy Holy Spirit, our sweetest Comforter, for ever and ever. Amen.

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FOR THE LOVE OF OUR NEIGHBOUR.

REV. B. JENKS.

O most gracious and merciful Lord our God, who art goodness and love itself; thou hast commanded that he who loveth thee, should love his brother also, yea, that we should love our neighbour as ourselves. Father of mercies, forgive me all my sins of uncharitableness, and give me a heart to abound with loving-kindness to all who are partakers of my nature, and objects of thy fatherly compassion. Let me not despise any for their low estate, nor hate any for their abusive carriage, nor cast off any as reprobate for their scandalous wickedness; but be kindly affectionate to all, desirous of their holiness and happiness, and contributing what lieth in me to promote it; shewing the mercy which thou knowest I need, and forgiving others, as I myself desire to be forgiven.

Make me ready to distribute, and willing to communicate; and as I should be glad to find favour, and to receive a supply of my own wants, give me, O gracious God, a large heart, and, according to my ability, an open hand, that I may give cheerfully, and sow plentifully while I have time, doing good unto all men, especially to them that are of the household of faith, yea, loving the opportunities of such well-doing, and

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blessing thy name for disposing me to gladden the hearts of thy poor.

And O that we may all approve ourselves the disciples of our Lord, by the love we have one to another, and shew that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. May we esteem them above all, and regard those as dearest to us, who most distinguish themselves in performing thy blessed will. O let our love be without dissimulation, not only in word and in tongue, but in deed and in truth. May we love one another with a pure heart fervently; may we seek the good of all, however undeserving they may be in themselves, or however hostile to us; and let my delight be in the righteous, that are more excellent than their neighbours. Make me to love them for thy holy image appearing in them, and to set my heart upon them, because thou art with them, and hast a favour unto them, and hast loved them with an everlasting love. O Lord of love, keep me from censoriousness and rash judging of any, that I may think and hope the best of all which their case will admit, and love every one for his sake, who has shewed the greatest love to us all, even our dearest Lord and only Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

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FOR HUMILITY.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O holy and eternal Jesus, who wert pleased to lay aside the glories and incomprehensible majesty which clothed thy infinity from before the beginning of creatures, and didst put a cloud upon thy brightness, and wert invested with the impure and imperfect broken robe of human nature, and didst abate those splendours which burst through thy veil, commanding devils not to publish thee, and men not to proclaim thy excellencies, and the apostles not to reveal those glories of thine which they discovered encircling thee at thy transfiguration, and didst by perpetual homilies and mysterious symbolical actions impress humility upon the spirits of thy disciples, and the whole tenor of Christianity; teach me to approach near to these excellencies, make me to imitate thy glorious condescensions, take from me all vanity and fantastic complacency in my own person or actions, and when there arises a reputation consequent to the performance of any part of my duty, make me to reflect the glory upon thee, suffering nothing to adhere to my own spirit, but shame at my own imperfection, and thankfulness to thee for all thine assistance. Let me never seek the praise of men, nor entertain it with delight, though it proceed from good principles, but make me to fear and tremble, lest I deserve punishment.

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or lose the reward which thou hast prepared for all them who seek thy glory, and despise their own, that they may imitate the example of their Lord. O subdue my proud understanding and my prouder affections, and bring me under thy yoke, that I may do thy work in all humility, and be a servant to all my brethren in their necessities, and esteem myself inferior to others from a deep sense of my own unworthiness, and in all things may obey thy laws, and conform to thine example, and enter into thine inheritance, O holy and eternal Jesus. Amen.

FOR PATIENCE.

THOMAS A KEMPIS.

O Lord, since thou, in whom was no sin, hast, by a life of patience and obedience, fulfilled thy Father's will, it is meet that I, a most wretched sinner, should patiently fulfil thy will, and bear the evils of my fallen state, till the purposes of thy redeeming love are accomplished.

Though the present life be in itself a grievous burden, yet, through the power of thy grace, and the influence of thy holy example, it is made supportable and light even to the weak. It is also enriched with comforts that were not experienced under the law when the gate of Paradise remained shut, and the way to it was obscured with shadows. Nor could even those whom thou hadst

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chosen unto salvation, and numbered among the just, enter into the holiest, till, by thy stupendous passion and bitter death, a new and living way was consecrated for them.

O what thankfulness and praise are we bound to render thee, who hast thus condescended to open, for every faithful soul, a good and sure way to thy eternal kingdom! Thy life, O Lord, is our true way; and, in the exercise of that holy patience which thy Spirit inspires, we approach nearer to thee, who art our righteousness and crown of glory.

Those evils which I cannot rectify, teach me to bear with humble patience, waiting till thou shalt be pleased to produce a change. May I be always patient of the faults and infirmities of others, remembering that, if I cannot make myself what I desire to be, still less can I expect to mould others according to my will.

Most loving Father, instruct me to follow thy holy will, and to suffer all things for the sake of Christ, knowing that no one in this fallen state is free from some burden of sin and sorrow, and that outward occasions of trouble from the conduct of others, or the necessary griefs of this life, will not, and cannot make me frail, but only discover, and bring me acquainted with the guilt hidden in myself.

O Lord, make that possible to me by grace which I find impossible by nature. Grant that every tribulation and chastisement may become

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lovely and desirable for thy name's sake. And may my patient endurance for thee abate the disorders of my soul, and obtain thy acceptance and blessing, through Christ, my Redeemer. Amen.

FOR OBEDIENCE.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O Lord and blessed Saviour Jesus, by whose obedience many became righteous, and reparations were made of the ruins brought to human nature by the disobedience of Adam, thou camest into the world with many great and holy purposes concerning our salvation, and hast given us a great precedent of obedience; which, that thou mightest preserve to thy heavenly Father, thou didst neglect thy life, and becamest obedient even to the death of the cross; O let me imitate so blessed an example, and, by the merits of thy obedience, let me obtain the grace of humility, and denial of my own desires, in the clearest renunciation of my will; that I may will or refuse, in conformity to thy sacred laws and holy purposes; that I may do all thy will cheerfully, choosingly, humbly, confidently, and continually; and thy will may be done upon me with much mercy, and in fatherly dispensations of thy providence.

Lord, let my understanding adhere to, and be satisfied in, the excellent wisdom of thy commandments; let my affections dwell in their desires,

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and all my other faculties daily labour for their performance. May my love of obeying thee make me dutiful to my superiors, respecting thine authority impressed upon their situations; that I may never despise their persons, nor refuse their injunctions, but be duteous and resigned to the laws of those whom thou hast placed over me; and my obedience to thee, and for thee, being united to thy most pure and holy obedience, I may also have my portion in the glories of thy kingdom, O blessed Saviour of the world. Amen.

FOR DILIGENCE AND FAITHFULNESS IN OUR SEVERAL DUTIES.

REV. B. JENKS.

O Lord our God! thy word enjoins us wherein-sover we are called, therein to abide with God. Thou hast commanded us not only to study quietness in that station, and to do our own business, but to provide for ourselves and our dependents, and to render unto all their due; and not to be burdensome to any, but rather to be helpful to those around us. O thou that givest skill and ability for the performance of those offices to which thou callest us, teach and enable me, I beseech thee, for the work of my situation, and all the duties combined with my circumstances. Good Lord, pardon all my past negligence and unfaithfulness therein, and direct and assist me in dis-

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charging it faithfully for the time to come. May I be punctually just in all my dealings, and conscientiously perform my duty in all my relations, carrying myself as I ought towards every one with whom I am any way concerned in the world, whether superior, equal, or inferior; being offensive to none, but, as I have power and opportunity, kind and useful to all. O let me not walk disorderly, neglecting my own proper calling, and busying myself in other men's matters; but may I keep my own station, and, with quietness. work and eat my own bread; behaving with honesty in the sight of all men, following after that which is holy and of good report, and exercising myself to have always a conscience void of offence towards God and man. Yea, whatever any may justly expect from me, help me, O God, to fulfil faithfully and acceptably. And command a blessing, Lord, upon all my honest labours and endeavours, and make them successful to promote the real and eternal good of myself and others, and to glorify thy blessed name, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

FOR PURITY.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O eternal God, who dwellest not in temples made with hands, the heaven of heavens is not able to contain thee, and yet thou art pleased to manifest thy presence amongst the sons of men by

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special tokens of thy favour and benediction; make my body and soul to be a temple pure and holy, apt for the reception of so glorious a guest as the blessed Jesus, and a fit habitation for thy Holy Spirit. Lord, be thou pleased, even with the rod of thy paternal discipline, to cast out all impurity, all worldly affections, all covetous desires, from this thy temple, that it may be a place of prayer and pious meditation, of holy affections and chaste thoughts, of pure intentions and zealous desires of pleasing thee; that I may become also a sacrifice as well as a temple, consumed with the zeal of thy glory, and blazing with the flames of thy love; that not one thought may be entertained in me but such as may be like perfume, breathing from the altar of incense; and not a word pass from my lips, but may have the accent of heaven upon it, and sound pleasantly in thy ears. Most gracious Lord, fill every faculty of my soul with impresses, dispositions, and capacities for religion; and do thou hallow my spirit, that I may be possest with zeal and religious affections, loving thee above all things in this world, worshipping thee with the most humble and frequent adorations; continually feeding upon the apprehensions of thy divine sweetness, the consideration of thy infinite excellencies, the observation of thy righteousness, and the feast of a pure conscience, as an anticipating of the joys of heaven and eternity, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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FOR CONTENTEDNESS.

WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

O merciful God, thy wisdom is infinite to choose, and thy love forward to dispense good things to us. O let me always fully and entirely resign myself to thy disposal, have no desires of my own, but a perfect satisfaction in thy choices for me, that so, in whatsoever estate I am, I may be therein content. Lord, grant I may never look on my own condition with murmuring, nor with envy on other men's; and, to that end, cleanse my heart of all covetous affections. O let me never yield up any corner of my soul to mammon, but give me such a contempt of these fading riches, that, whether they increase or decrease, I may never set my heart upon them, but that all my care may be to be rich towards God, to lay up my treasure in heaven; that I may so set my affections on things above, that when Christ, who is my life, shall appear, I may also appear with him in glory. Grant this, O Lord, for the merits of the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

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FOR REPENTANCE.

REV. B. JENKS.

O most holy Lord, against whom I have greatly sinned, thou hast revealed thy wrath from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, and hast declared, that except we repent, we shall all perish.

Thou wilt not save any without repentance, yet, upon our repenting, hast assured us of thy gracious pardon and acceptance. When we return unto thee, and humble ourselves before thee, thou wilt shew us thy mercy, and grant us thy salvation. O thou searcher of hearts, thou seest that our hearts are hardened through the deceitfulness of sin; without thy grace I am unable to turn unto thee with my whole heart; if thou endue me not with power from on high, I must continue for ever a miserable captive to sin and Satan.

O thou that didst cause water to gush out of the stony rock, break and melt my rocky heart. Teach me to look upon him whom my sins have pierced, and mourn. Cause me to be in bitterness for all the offences that I have committed against thee, the Lord of love, and author of all my mercies. O give me true repentance, such as thy holy word requires, and such as thy gracious goodness in Christ Jesus will mercifully accept,—that repentance unto life which is never to be

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repented of. Lord, thou knowest I desire to have that brokenness of heart, and that deep contrition, which thou wilt not despise. Renew me in the spirit of my mind, that I may bring forth fruits meet for repentance; not only confessing and bewailing my sins, but also forsaking and hating them from my inmost soul. Thou knowest, good Lord, I cannot recall my sins; but O that I may never repeat them more! May I have such a sense of thy loving-kindness, as may effectually remove me from all evil ways. Let me henceforth walk with all possible care and circumspection; may the time past of my life suffice to have wrought my own will; henceforth let me have grace determinately to forsake all evil ways and evil thoughts, that so thou mayest have mercy upon me, and pardon all my multiplied transgressions. Hear me, O God, and answer me, through the infinite riches of thy grace and goodness in Christ Jesus, my only Saviour. Amen.

FOR SINCERITY.

REV. B. JENKS.

O Lord, the only wise God, thine understanding is infinite, and from thee no thought can be withheld! Thou searchest the heart, and hast even the most secret sins in the light of thy countenance; thou requirest truth in the inward parts, and wilt bring every work into judgment, and

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every secret thing, whether good or evil. My God, I acknowledge and bewail before thee the guile and deceitfulness of my heart; I lament that I have been so unmindful of thy presence — so regardless of thy glorious majesty. Make my heart right with thee, and without any allowed guile in thy sight; that so I may not be ashamed, or found wanting, in that day when thou shalt come to judge the world.

O let thine all-seeing eye, and not the eye of the world, restrain and regulate my conduct; and let thy blessed favour, more than the approbation of sinful man, be ever my study and delight. Let me not allow myself in any way of wickedness, nor go on, in formality and hypocrisy, to serve thee; but enable me to walk before thee with an upright heart, and to do all things sincerely and heartily, as unto the Lord. Let me not be only almost, but altogether, a Christian — obeying, from the heart, all thy holy laws; and not so desirous to seem religious, as to be so in deed and in truth; that I may have continual rejoicing in the testimony of my own conscience, and in that peace of God which passeth all understanding. O Father, who seest in secret! let the performing of thy holy will, and the honouring of thy blessed name, and the enjoying of thy gracious favour, be the great end which I design to aim at in all my actions and undertakings; that thou, the great and good God, mayest in all things be glorified by me, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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FOR PERSEVERANCE.

WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

O eternal and unchangeable Lord God, who art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, be thou pleased to communicate some small ray of that excellence, some degree of that stability, to me, thy unworthy creature, who am light and inconstant, and turned by every blast. Lord, my understanding is very deceivable: O stablish it in thy truth; keep it from the snares of seducing spirits, that I may not be led away with the error of the wicked, and fall from my own steadfastness. My will, also, O Lord, is irresolute and wavering, and doth not cleave steadfastly with God. My goodness is but like the morning cloud, and as the early dew, it passeth quickly away. O strengthen and confirm me; and whatever good work thou hast wrought in me, be pleased to accomplish and perform it till the day of Christ. Lord, thou seest my weakness, and thou knowest the number and strength of those temptations I have to struggle with: O leave me not to myself, but cover thou my head in the day of battle; and, in all spiritual combats, make me more than conqueror, through him that loved me.

O let no terrors or flatteries, either of the world or my own flesh, ever draw me from my obedience to thee; but grant that I may continue steadfast,

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unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; and, by patient continuance in well-doing, seek, and at last obtain, glory, and honour, and immortality, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT.

DR HICKES.

O Lord my God! who, by thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, hast promised thy Holy Spirit to all them that ask him of thee, I beseech thee to give him to me in all the graces and assistances of which I stand in need. I ask him in all humility and earnestness, as the greatest blessing I can receive; I ask him in the sense of my own weakness and infirmities, knowing, without his continual inspirations, I can desire nothing that is good, or do any thing that is acceptable to thee: therefore, O Lord, let him be with me, and remain with me, and most powerfully assist me in all trials and temptations, when I most need help.

Let him be unto me a spirit of sanctification, to purify my corrupt nature — a spirit of counsel in all difficulties — of direction in all doubts — of courage in all dangers — of constancy in all persecutions — of comfort in all troubles, especially in times of sickness, and at the hour of death — of submission and resignation to thy holy will and

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pleasure in all afflictions that are most grievous to flesh and blood.

Leave me not a moment to my own human frailty without his assistance, but let him constantly inspire me with fear, love, and devotion towards thee; with truth, justice, and charity towards my neighbour; and with abstinence and sobriety towards myself. And because I live in evil times, and am in danger of being deceived by the wiles and false pretensions of men, let him be also unto me a spirit of wisdom, and conduct, and discretion, that I may be able to discern truth from hypocrisy, and sincere, undesigning, and faithful friends, from such as are false, designing, and flattering.

Farthermore, I beseech thee, let him be unto me a spirit of patience under all crosses, and in all provocations — a spirit of trust and steadfast repose of mind in thy care and providence — a spirit of forgiveness to my enemies — a spirit of humility to make me quiet and easy in myself, meek and gentle to others, and to free me from all the sins and torment of pride, envy, and ambition; and, finally, so let him guide me and govern me through the whole course of my short life here, that I may not fail to obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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FOR DIVINE GRACE.

DR DODDRIDGE.

Blessed God! I sincerely acknowledge, before thee, mine own weakness and insufficiency for any thing that is spiritually good. I have experienced it a thousand times; yet my foolish heart would again trust itself, and form resolutions in its own strength. But let this be the first fruits of thy gracious influence upon me, to bring me to a humble distrust of myself, and to a repose upon thee.

Abundantly do I rejoice, O Lord, in the kind assurances which thou hast given me of thy readiness to bestow liberally and richly so great a benefit. I do, therefore, according to thy condescending invitation, "come with boldness to the throne of grace, that I may find help in time of need." I mean not, O Lord God, to turn thy grace into wantonness or perverseness, or to make my weakness an excuse for negligence and sloth. I confess thou hast already given me more strength than I have used; and I charge it upon myself, and not on thee, that I have not long since received more abundant supplies. For the future, I desire to be found diligent in the use of all appointed means, in the neglect of which, I well know, that petitions like these would be a profane mockery, and might much more probably provoke

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thee to take away what I have, than prevail upon thee to impart more. But firmly resolving to exert myself to the utmost, I earnestly entreat the communications of thy grace, that I may be enabled to fulfil that resolution.

"Be surety, O Lord, unto thy servant for good." Be pleased to shed abroad thy sanctifying influences on my soul, to form me for every duty thou requirest. Implant, I beseech thee, every grace and virtue deep in mine heart, and maintain me, in the midst of those assaults, from within and without, to which I am continually liable, while I am still in this world, and carry about with me so many infirmities.

Fill my breast, I beseech thee, with good affections towards thee, my God, and towards my fellow-creatures! Remind me always of thy presence; and may I remember that every secret sentiment of my soul is open to thee. May I, therefore, guard against the first risings of sin, and the first approaches to it. And, that Satan may not find room for his evil suggestions, I earnestly beg that thou, Lord, wouldst fill my heart by thine Holy Spirit, and take up thy residence there. Dwell in me and walk with me; and let my body be the temple of the Holy Ghost.

May I be so joined to Christ Jesus, my Lord, as to be one spirit with him, and feel his invigorating influences continually bearing me on, superior to every temptation, and to every corruption; that while "the youth shall faint and be weary,

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and the young men utterly fall," I may so wait upon the Lord, as to renew my strength; and go on from one degree of faith, and love, and zeal, and holiness, to another, till I appear perfect before thee in Zion, to drink in immortal vigour and joy from thee, as the everlasting fountain of both, through Jesus Christ, my Lord, in whom I have righteousness and strength, and to whom I desire ever to ascribe the praise of all mine improvement in both. Amen.

FOR PEACE OF MIND.

REV. J. KETTLEWELL.

Let me have thy peace, O gracious Father, and comfort my trembling and broken heart with the hopes thereof. Cause me to hear the voice of joy and gladness, and revive me with the assurance of thy love. O that I may be able, from my own experience, to speak great things of thy readiness to receive and comfort returning sinners, and thereby draw back others to thy service, who are still running astray after vanity! O that, by seeing thy goodness upon me, every one that is godly may seek to thee in distress, and find mercy as I have done!

But, Lord, having found thy comfort to poor sinners, let me not abuse it, or presume upon it. Let me not take heart to repeat my sins, because thou art ready and glad to grant forgiveness.

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When thou hast spoken comfortably to me, make me careful to sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon me; but teach me to maintain all holy and thankful obedience unto thee, and never more return to folly.

Let a sense of thy mercies, O my God, serve but to encourage my repentance, and to support me in thy fear, till I come at length to enjoy thy eternal favour, through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

FOR THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O holy and eternal God, who hast commanded us to pray unto thee in all our necessities, and to give thanks unto thee for all our instances of joy and blessing, and to adore thee in all thy attributes and communications, thy own glories, and thy eternal mercies, give unto me, thy servant, the spirit of prayer and supplication, that I may understand what is good for me; that I may desire regularly, and choose the best things; that I may conform to thy will, and submit to thy disposing, relinquishing my own affections and imperfect choice. Sanctify my heart and spirit, that I may sanctify thy name, and that I may be gracious and accepted in thine eyes. Give me the humility and obedience of a servant, that I

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may also have the hope and confidence of a child, making humble and confident addresses to the throne of grace, that in all my necessities I may come to thee for aid, and may trust in thee for a gracious answer, and may receive satisfaction to all my doubts, and supply to all my wants.

Give me a sober, diligent, and recollected spirit in my prayers, neither choked with cares, nor scattered by levity, nor discomposed by passion, nor estranged from thee by inadvertency, but fixed fast on thee, the object of my fear and hope, of my dread and confidence. And let the beams of thy Holy Spirit, descending from above, enlighten and enkindle it with great fervour, and holy importunity, and unwearied industry, that I may serve thee, and obtain thy blessing, ever worshipping thee with holy worship. Let my prayers come before thy presence, and the lifting up of my hands be a daily sacrifice, and let the fires of zeal not go out by night or day, but unite my prayers to the intercession of the holy Jesus, and to a communion of those offices which angels and beatified spirits do pay before the throne of the Lamb, and at the altar of heaven; that my prayers, being hallowed by the merits of Christ, may ascend thither where thy glory dwells, and from whence mercy and eternal benediction descend upon the Church.

Lord, change my sins into penitential sorrow, my sorrow to petition, my petition to Eucharist;

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that my prayers may be consummate in the adorations of eternity, and the glorious participation of the end of our hopes and prayers, the fulness of never-failing charity, and fruition of thee, O holy and eternal God, blessed Trinity, and mysterious Unity, to whom all honour, and worship, and thanks, and confession, and glory, be ascribed for ever and ever. Amen.

FOR DIRECTION IN PRAYER.

REV. H. GROVE.

O thou, that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come; almighty and everlasting God, as a Father pitieth his children, so thou pitiest them that fear thee; thou knowest their frame, thou rememberest that they are but dust. While thy wisdom and holiness leave no room for impenitent sinners to hope that thou wilt hear them, thou art pleased to encourage such as are upright in heart, under all their failings and imperfections, to put their trust in thy mercy.

Grant, I beseech thee, that I may have my mind deeply impressed with a sense of these and all other thy perfections, that in my whole behaviour, and more especially in my solemn addresses to the throne of thy heavenly grace, I may be so influenced thereby as ever to glorify thy most holy name. O let not this most blessed liberty which thou hast given me of coming into

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thy presence, and calling upon thee as our Father in heaven, be despised and neglected by me, or prove in vain, for want of that sincerity and humility, and faith, and charity, and devotion, and all those good dispositions wherewith I should bow myself before the most high God.

Blot out all my offences, O most merciful Father, and uphold me with thy free Spirit. By thy good Spirit teach me how to pray; quicken and assist me in my prayers; and grant that I may never forget to whom, and for what, I make my requests, but may always have a lively apprehension of thy presence, though invisible, and of the reality, excellence, and infinite importance of spiritual and eternal blessings; that, placing my happiness in thee alone, I may not vainly seek it in other objects where it is not to be found, nor be grieved and disappointed when outward things do not afford me that satisfaction which I ought not to expect from them. May I so pray as to live better at other times, as to be in a better disposition of mind to pray always, with all supplication, watching thereunto with perseverance; being kept steadfast in the way of my duty by the delight I take in it, and the tranquillity and establishment of soul I derive from it.

And thus let me go on in the regular uniform discharge of the duties of piety towards God, and charity towards man, till, under the influences of thy divine Spirit — being prepared, by a life of

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faith and hope, for a state of vision and enjoyment—I shall be translated to those blessed and glorious mansions, where thou hast laid up for them that love thee such things as eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor can enter into the heart of man fully to apprehend; where I shall not only be sincere in my devotions as now, but equal to the angels, according to my capacities, and with fervent everlasting praises celebrate that goodness which is boundless and endless.

Let these my prayers come up for a memorial before thee, and be graciously accepted, through the mediation of thy well-beloved Son, my only Saviour and Advocate, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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PRAYERS

UNDER AFFLICTION.

IN TIME OF AFFLICTION.

ST AUGUSTINE.

LOOK down, O Lord, with pity and compassion, upon a most miserable sinner, doing that which he ought not, and enduring those things which he has most justly deserved, every day multiplying his offences, and smarting hourly under thy correcting rod for them. When I reflect upon my many and great provocations, I cannot but confess my sufferings to be light and gentle in comparison, and own they do by no means bear a proportion to what I have incurred, and might expect. Righteous art thou, Lord, and just are thy judgments. Thou sendest affliction, but thou sendest it upon us as creatures and sinners, and therefore canst not be charged with injustice or cruelty. For what is the utmost under which we groan? How does this declare thy power, in comparison of that almighty goodness which called us into being, when we were not? How does this deserve the imputation of rigour, when set against

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that infinite mercy which, in wonderful pity, redeemed and restored us to happiness and life, when sin had reduced us to a condition so lost and desperate, that even our being was become a curse unto us? Lord, I am convinced that the affairs of this life are not left to the rash uncertain blows of blind chance, but are all under the steady governance and wise disposal of thy good providence. I know that thou lovest and takest care of all thy creatures, but more especially thy faithful servants, who repose all their hope and confidence in thy mercy, and in this confidence cheerfully commit themselves and all their affairs to thee. In this persuasion, I most humbly pray thee that thou wouldst deal with me, not according to my sins, which have made me obnoxious to thy angry justice, but after thy own great mercy, which far exceeds not only mine, but the whole world's offences. Merciful Father, may it please thee to extend mercy and relief in thy own time, and in thy own way, which is always certain to be the best, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOR THE RIGHT USE OF ADVERSITY.

PASCAL.

O Lord, who art so good and gracious in all things, and whose Spirit is so merciful, that not only the prosperities, but even the distresses which happen to thine elect, are the effects of thy mercy; grant me grace not to act like a heathen in the

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state to which thy justice has brought me; but, like a true Christian, may I acknowledge thee for my Father and my God, in whatsoever circumstances I am placed. For the altering my condition can in no way influence thine: thou art ever the same, though I am subject to change: thou art God, no less when correcting and punishing, than when thou art consoling and shewing compassion. Thou gavest me prosperity, to be employed in serving thee; and I perverted it to a use altogether profane. Now thou hast sent adversity for my correction: O suffer me not to use this likewise to provoke thee by my impatience. I misused my worldly advantages, and thou hast gently punished me for it. O keep me from misusing thy correction; and, since the corruption of my nature is such that it renders thy favours pernicious to my welfare, grant, O my God, that thy all-powerful grace may render thy chastisements beneficial, and lead me to my Redeemer. Amen.

UNDER HEAVY AFFLICTION.

DR DODDRIDGE.

O thou supreme, yet all righteous and gracious Governor of the universe, mean and inconsiderable as this little province of thy spacious empire may appear, thou dost not disregard the earth and its inhabitants, but attendest to its concerns with the

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most condescending and gracious regards. Thou reignest, and I rejoice in it, as it is indeed a matter of universal joy. I believe thy superior providence and care; and I firmly believe thy wise, holy, and kind interposition in every thing which relates to me, and to the circumstances of my abode in this thy world. I would look through all inferior causes unto thee, whose eyes are upon all thy creatures — to thee, "who formest the light, and createst the darkness; who makest peace, and createst evil"—to thee, Lord, who at thy pleasure canst exchange the brightest noon into midnight, and the darkest midnight into noon.

O thou wise and merciful Governor of the world! I have often said, "Thy will be done;" and now thy will is painful to me. But shall I, upon that account, unsay what I have so often said? God forbid! I lay myself down at thy feet, and to declare my full and free submission to all thy sacred pleasure. O Lord, thou art just and righteous in all. I acknowledge, in thy venerable and awful presence, that I have deserved this, and ten thousand times more. I acknowledge, "that it is of thy mercy that I am not utterly consumed," and that any the least degree of comfort yet remains. O Lord, I most readily confess, that the sins of one day of my life have merited all these chastisements, and that every day of my life hath been more or less sinful. Smite, therefore, O thou righteous Judge, and I will still adore thee, that, instead of the scourge, thou hast not

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given a commission to the sword to do all the dreadful work of justice, and to pour out my blood in thy presence.

But shall I speak unto thee only as my Judge? O Lord, thou hast taught me a tenderer name: thou condescendest to call thyself my Father, and to speak of correction as the effect of thy love. O welcome, welcome, those afflictions which are the tokens of thy parental affection — the marks of my adoption into thy family! Thou knowest what discipline I need. Thou seest, O Lord, that burden of folly which there is in the heart of thy poor, froward, and thoughtless child; and knowest what ends, and what strokes, are needful to take it away. I would, therefore, be in humble subjection to the Father of spirits, who chasteneth me for my profit. I would bear thy strokes, not merely because I cannot resist them, but because I love and trust in thee. I would sweetly acquiesce and rest in thy will, as well as stoop to it, and would say, "Good is the word of the Lord;" and I desire, that not only my lips, but my soul, may acquiesce. Yea, Lord, I would praise thee, that thou art willing to apply such remedies as these to the diseases of my mind, and art thus kindly careful to train me up for glory. Support my soul, I beseech thee, by thy consolations, mingled with my tribulations, and I shall glory in those griefs that are thus allayed. It has been the experience of many, who have reflected on afflicted days with pleasure, and

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have acknowledged that their comforts have swallowed up their sorrows.

If my heart be less tender, less sensible, thou canst cure that disorder, and make this affliction the means of effecting it. Thus let it be; and, at length, in thine own due time, and in the way which thou shalt choose, work out deliverance for me. For I well know, that how dark soever this night of affliction seem, if thou sayest, "Let there be light," there shall be light. But I am much more concerned that my afflictions may be sanctified, than that they may be removed. Number me, O God, among those happy persons whom, while thou chastenest, thou teachest; and purify me by the fire which is so painful to me while I am passing through it. Dost thou not chasten thy children for this very end, that they may be partakers of thy holiness? Thou knowest, O God, it is this my soul is breathing after. I am partaker of thy bounty every day and moment of my life. I am partaker of thy gospel, and I hope, in some measure too, a partaker of the grace of it operating on my heart. May I partake largely of thy holiness too; that, in the temper of my mind, I may come nearer to thee, O blessed God, the supreme model of perfection! Let my soul be as it were melted, though with the intensest heat of the furnace, if I may but thereby be made fit for being delivered into the mould of thy gospel, and bearing thy bright image.

O Lord, my soul longeth for thee: in thy

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presence, and supported by thy love, I can bear any thing, and am willing to bear it, if I may grow more acceptable in thy sight, and more meet for thy kingdom. The days of my affliction will have an end; the hour will at length come when thou wilt wipe away all my tears. My foolish heart, in the midst of all its trials, is ready to grow fond of this earth, disappointing and grievous as it is; and graciously, O God, dost thou deal with me in breaking those bonds that would tie me faster to it. O let my soul be girding itself up, and, as it were, stretching its wings in expectation of that blessed hour when it shall drop all its sorrows and encumbrances at once, and soar away to expatiate, with infinite delight, in the regions of liberty, peace, and joy. Amen.

UNDER THE LOSS OF FRIENDS.

BISHOP PATRICK.

O most holy Lord God, the supreme Lord and Governor of the world, who art unsearchable in thy wisdom, unspotted in thy justice, and irresistible in thy power; whose goodness hath no bounds, but what thy wise and holy will gives unto it; and art immutable in these and all other perfections, the great God, most blessed for ever: it is most reasonable and agreeable to our nature, most profitable and agreeable to our interest, most satisfactory and suitable to our wisest choice, by

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an absolute and quiet submission, in all things, to thy sovereign wisdom, justice, and goodness, to declare our fear and reverence of thee, our unfeigned love to thee, and desires to please thee, our trust and confidence in thee, and ready dispositions to obey thee.

In a full persuasion of thy unerring providence over us, and infinite charity towards us, I here most humbly and freely resign all my thoughts and desires unto thee, submitting myself entirely to thy orders, and resolving, by thy gracious assistance, to rest contented with whatsoever thou hast appointed. Blessed be thy name, who hast continued to me so long the enjoyment of so many good things. Blessed be thy name, that I had any thing to part withal, whereby I might testify my faith in thee, and affection to thee. Blessed be thy name that I have any of the comforts of this life still remaining, and that they are not all taken away from me. There is nothing too great or too dear to be resigned to thee, from whose bounty I received all I have, and who art my eternal friend.

O that no repining thoughts may arise in my heart to disorder and discompose my duty towards thee, or towards my neighbour; but help me rather to think wherein I have offended thee, and carefully to amend it; to place my affections more immoveably on those things which are above; to lay up my treasure and hope in heaven, and to prepare myself by perfecting my purity, and

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thankfulness, and patience, and all other virtues, to be translated thither, when our life is hid in thee with Christ Jesus.

I thank thee, O Father of mercies, that thou hast given us such everlasting consolation, through thy grace in him. Every day will I bless thee, and I will praise thy name for ever and ever, for those exceeding great and precious promises which thou hast given us to support and comfort us in all the troubles of this life. Increase my faith, strengthen and confirm my hope; lift up my spirit continually to that blessed place where Jesus is, that I may rejoice in hope of that immortal life, where all tears shall be wiped from our eyes, and there shall be no sighing nor sorrow any more; but we who are now parted asunder, shall meet together to acknowledge, with eternal praises, thy wise and merciful providence, which, by ways most contrary to our desires, hath brought us to endless and undisturbed bliss.

Thou knowest, O Lord, the weakness and frailty of our nature: therefore vouchsafe unto me the constant assistance of thy good Spirit, for which I depend upon thee, to enable me to continue in this humble, quiet, and dutiful submission to thee, waiting for that peaceful and joyful repose in the eternal rest which thou hast prepared for thy people, through thy mercies in Christ Jesus; by whom all glory, honour, love, and obedience be rendered to thee, by me and all mankind, both now and for ever. Amen.

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IN THE BEGINNING OF SICKNESS.

PRACTICE OF PIETY.

O most righteous Judge, yet, in Christ Jesus, my gracious Father, I, a wretched sinner, do here return unto thee, though driven with pain and sickness, like the prodigal child with want and hunger. I acknowledge that this sickness and pain comes not by blind chance or fortune, but by thy divine providence and special appointment: it is the stroke of thy heavy hand, which my sins have justly deserved; and the things that I dread are now fallen upon me. Yet do I well perceive, that in wrath thou rememberest mercy, when I consider how many and how heinous are my sins and how few and easy are thy corrections. Thou mightest have struck me with some fearful and sudden death, whereby I should not have had either time or space to have called upon thee for grace and mercy; and so I should have perished in my sins, and have been condemned for ever to hell fire.

But thou, O Lord, visitest me with such a fatherly chastisement, as thou usest to inflict on thy dearest children, whom thou best lovest; giving me, by this sickness, both warning and time to repent, and sue unto thee for grace and pardon. I take not, therefore, O Lord, this thy visitation as any sign of thy wrath or hatred, but

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as an assured pledge and token of thy favour and loving-kindness, whereby thou dost, with thy temporal judgments, draw me to judge myself. and to repent of my wicked life, that I should not be condemned with the godless and impenitent world; for thy holy word assures me, that whom thou lovest thou thus chastenest, and that thou scourgest every son whom thou receivest. O Lord, how full of goodness is thy nature, seeing that thou hast dealt with me so graciously in the time of my health and prosperity! and now, being provoked by my sins and unthankfulness, hast such fatherly and profitable ends, in inflicting upon me this sickness and correction!

I confess, Lord, thou dost justly afflict my body with sickness, for my soul was sick before of long prosperity. And now, O Lord, I mourn and lament for my sins; I acknowledge my wickedness, and mine iniquities are always in thy sight. O what a wretched sinner am I, void of all goodness by nature, and full of all evil by sinful custom! How many sins have I committed against thee, whilst thy long-sufferance expected my conversion, and thy blessings wooed me to repentance! Yet, O my God, seeing it is thy property more to respect the goodness of thine own nature than the deserts of sinners, I beseech thee, O Father, for thy Son Jesus Christ's sake, and for the merits of that all-saving death which he hath voluntarily suffered for all that believe in him, have mercy upon me, according to the

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multitude of thy mercies; turn thy face away from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities; cast me not out of thy presence, neither reward me according to my deserts. For if thou dost reject me, who will receive me? or who will succour me, if thou dost forsake me? But thou, O Lord, art a helper of the helpless, and in thee the fatherless find mercy. For though my sins be exceeding great, yet thy mercy, O Lord, far exceedeth them all; neither can I commit so many as thy grace cannot remit and pardon. Wash me, therefore, O Christ, in thy precious blood, and cleanse me from those sins which, from a penitent heart, I confess unto thee; and seeing that of thy love thou didst lay down thy life for my ransom when I was thy enemy, O save now the price of thy own blood! for though there be nothing in me that can please the Father, yet I know that in thee, and for thy sake, he is well pleased with all whom thou acceptest and lovest. If it be thy blessed will, remove this sickness from me, and restore me to my former health again; that I may live longer to set forth thy glory, and procure to myself a more settled assurance of that heavenly inheritance which thou hast prepared for them who love thee. Direct me, O Lord, by thy divine providence, to such means, as that, by thy blessing, I may speedily recover my former health again. And, good Lord, since thou hast sent this sickness unto me, be pleased likewise to send thy Holy Spirit into my heart, whereby this present sickness

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may be sanctified; that I may use it as thy school, wherein I may learn to know the greatness of my misery, and the riches of thy mercy; that I may be so humbled at the one, that I despair not of the other; and that I may so renounce all confidence of help in myself, or in any other creature, that I may put the whole rest of my salvation in thy all-sufficient merits. And forasmuch, O Lord, as thou knowest how weak a vessel I am, full of frailty and imperfections, and that by nature I am angry and froward under every cross and affliction, O Lord, who art the giver of all good gifts, arm me with patience to endure thy blessed will and pleasure, and of thy mercy lay no more upon me than I shall be able to endure. Give me grace to behave myself in all patience, love, and meekness, unto those that shall come and visit me; that I may thankfully receive, and willingly embrace, all good counsels and consolations, and that they may likewise see in me such good examples of patience, and hear from me such godly lessons of comfort, as may be arguments of my Christian faith and profession, and instructions unto them how to behave themselves when it shall please thee to visit them with the like affliction or sickness. I know, O Lord, I have deserved to die, and I desire not longer to live than to amend my wicked life, and in some better measure to set forth thy glory. Therefore, O Father, if it be thy blessed will, restore me to health again, and grant me a longer life. But

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if thou hast, according to thy eternal decree, appointed this sickness to call me out of this transitory life, I resign myself into thy hands and most holy pleasure. Thy blessed will be done, whether it be by life or by death; only I beseech thee, of thy mercy, to forgive me all my sins, and prepare my soul, that by a true faith and unfeigned repentance, I may be ready against the time that thou shalt call me hence. O heavenly Father, who art the hearer of prayer, hear thou in heaven this my prayer, and in this extremity grant me these requests, not for any worthiness that is in me, but for the merits of thy beloved Son Jesus, my only Saviour and Mediator; for whose sake thou hast promised to hear us, and to grant us whatsoever we shall ask of thee in his name. Amen.

FOR A TIME OF SICKNESS.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O Almighty God, merciful and gracious, who in thy justice didst send sorrow and tears, sickness and death, into the world, as a punishment for man's sins, and hast comprehended all under sin, and this sad covenant of sufferings, not to destroy us, but that thou mightest have mercy upon all, making thy justice to minister to mercy, short afflictions to an eternal weight of glory; as thou hast turned my sins into sickness, so turn my

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sickness to the advantages of holiness and religion, of mercy and pardon, of faith and hope, of grace and glory. Thou hast now called me to the fellowship of sufferings; Lord, by the instrument of religion, let my present condition be so sanctified, that my sufferings may be united to the sufferings of thy blessed Son, that so thou mayest pity me and assist me. Relieve my sorrow, and support my spirit: direct my thoughts, and sanctify the accidents of my sickness, so that the punishment of my sin may be the school of virtue; in which, since thou hast now entered me, Lord, make me a holy proficient; that I may behave myself as a child under discipline, humbly and obediently, evenly and penitently, that I may come, by this means, nearer unto thee; that if I shall go forth of this sickness, by the gate of life and health, I may return to the world with great strength of spirit to run a new race of a stricter holiness, and a more uniform religion; or if I pass from hence by the outlet of death, I may enter into the bosom of my Lord, and may feel the present joy of that hope, in which all thy saints and servants shall be comprehended to eternal ages.

Lord, thou hast made me and sustained me, thou hast blessed me in all the days of my life, and hast taken care of me in all variety of accidents; and nothing happens to me in vain, nothing without thy providence. Lord, I lie down humbly under thy rod; do with me as thou pleasest; do thou choose for me, not only the whole state and

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condition of being, but every little and great accident of it. Keep me safe by thy grace, and then use what instrument thou pleasest of bringing me to thee. Only, O Lord, remember my infirmities, and let thy servant rejoice in thee always, and feel, and confess, and glory, in thy goodness. O be thou as delightful to me in this my medicinal sickness, as ever thou wert in any of the dangers of my prosperity: let me not peevishly refuse thy pardon on condition of a severe discipline. I am thy servant and thy creature, thy purchased possession and thy child: I am all thine: And because thou hast mercy in store for all that trust in thee, I cover mine eyes, and in silence wait for the time of my redemption, through Jesus Christ our dearest Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION IN TRIBULATION.

THOMAS A KEMPIS.

Blessed be thy name, O Lord, for ever, who hast permitted this tribulation to come upon me! I am not able to fly from it, but it is necessary for me to fly to thee, that thou mayest support me under it, and make it instrumental to my good. I am in deep distress, and my heart sinks and faints under the burden of its sorrows. Dearest Father, encompassed thus with danger, and oppressed with fear, what shall I say? O save me from this hour! But for this cause came I unto this hour, that, after being perfectly humbled,

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thou mightest have the glory of my deliverance. "Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me." O fortify me under this new distress; be thou my strength and my support, and I will not fear.

And now, what doth thy Spirit enable me to say? "Lord, thy will be done." This tribulation and anguish I must bear as my due. O that I may bear it with patience, till the dark storm be overpast, and light and peace succeed. Yet thy omnipotent arm, merciful God, as it hath often done before, can remove even this trial from me, or so graciously mitigate its severity, that I shall not utterly sink under it.

Holy Father, be thou blessed now and for ever; for whatever thou willest is done, and all that thou willest is good. I am poor and afflicted, from my youth up, and sometimes my soul is sorrowful even unto death, filled with consternation and terror at the evils that threaten to overwhelm me. O Lord, I long indeed for the blessings of peace; I earnestly implore the peace of thy children, who are sustained by thee in the light of thy countenance. Shouldst thou bestow peace, shouldst thou pour forth the treasures of heavenly joy, the soul of thy servant shall be turned to harmony, and devoutly celebrate thy praise.

O righteous Father, ever to be praised, the hour of thy servant's trial is at hand. O merciful Father, ever to be loved, it is meet that in this hour, thy servant should suffer somewhat for thy sake. O Father, infinitely wise and ever to be

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adored, that hour is now come, which thou didst foreknow from all eternity, in which thy servant shall be enfeebled in his outward man. Holy Father, so thou hast willed in thy infinite mercy; it is, therefore, good for me to be afflicted, that I may learn thy statutes, and utterly cast from me all self-confidence and self-exaltation, having recourse for comfort, not unto men, but unto thee.

I give thee thanks, O Father of mercies, that thou hast not spared the evil that is in me, but hast humbled sinful nature by severe chastisements, inflicting pains, and accumulating sorrows, both from within and without; and of all in heaven and on earth, there is none that can bring me comfort but thou, O Lord my God; thy chastisement is upon me, and thy rod shall teach me wisdom.

Behold, O gracious Father, I am in thy hands. O smite and bend my stubbornness, till my untractable spirit shall learn ready compliance with thy righteous will. To thy merciful discipline I now commend all that I am, and bless thee that thou hast not reserved me for the awful chastisements of the future world; thou knowest what is most expedient for my advancement in holiness, and how effectually tribulation contributeth to wear away the rust of corruption.

Grant, O Lord, that from this hour, I may know only that which is worthy to be known, that I may love only that which is truly lovely, that I may praise only that which chiefly pleaseth thee, may esteem what thou esteemest,

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and despise that which is contemptible in thy sight. Suffer me no longer to judge by the imperfect perception of my own senses, but enable me to judge both of visible and invisible things, by thy Spirit of truth, and, above all, to know and obey thy will through Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

FOR A BLESSED DEATH.

HELE.

O eternal and everlasting God, who didst at first breathe into man the breath of life; and when thou takest away that breath, he dies, and is turned again to his dust; look with compassion, I beseech thee, upon me, thy creature, and let thy goood Spirit work in me whatsoever thou seest wanting to fit and prepare me for the time of my dissolution.

Give me that sincere and earnest repentance, to which thou hast promised mercy and pardon. Wean my heart from the world and all its fading vanities, and make me to pant after those more excellent and durable joys, which are at thy right hand for ever. Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon me, and in all the pains of my body, and all the agonies of my spirit, let thy comforts refresh my soul, and enable me patiently to wait till my change come.

And grant, O Lord, that when mine earthly house of this tabernacle is dissolved, I may have

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a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens; and that for his sake, who, by his precious death, hath purchased for all believers a sure and certain title to everlasting life, Jesus Christ, thine only Son our Lord. Amen.

AT THE APPROACH OF DEATH.

WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

O eternal and almighty God, look with compassion upon me, thy poor creature, who now draws near to the gates of death, and, which is infinitely more terrible, the bar of judgment. Lord, my own heart condemns me, and thou art far greater than my heart, and knowest all things: the sins I know and remember fill me with horror; but there are also multitudes of others, which I either observed not at the time, or have since carelessly forgot, which are all present unto thee. Thou settest my misdeeds before thee, and my secret sins in the light of thy countenance; and to what a mountainous heap must the continual provocations of so many years arise! How shall one so ungodly stand in thy judgment, or such a sinner in the congregation of the righteous? And, to add yet more to my terror, my very repentance, I fear, will not abide the trial. My frequent relapses heretofore have sufficiently witnessed the insincerity of my past resolutions; and then, O Lord, what can secure me that my present dislikes

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of my sins are not rather the effects of my amazing danger than of any real change? And, O Lord, I know thou art not to be mocked, nor wilt accept of any thing that is not perfectly sincere. O Lord, when I consider this, fearfulness and trembling come upon me, and a horrible dread overwhelmeth me; my flesh trembleth for fear of thee, and my heart is wounded within me. But, O Lord, one deep calleth upon another — the depth of my misery upon the depth of thy mercy. Lord, save now, or I perish eternally. O thou, who willed not that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, bring me, I beseech thee, though thus late, to a sincere repentance,— such as thou wilt accept, who triest the heart. Create in me, O Lord, a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. O let thy mighty Spirit work in me now, in this my last day, whatsoever thou seest wanting to fit me for thy mercy and acceptation. Give me a perfect and entire hatred of my sins, and enable me to present thee with the sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart, which thou hast promised not to despise. Then shall I feel the value of that atonement which thy dear Son hath, by the more excellent oblation of himself, made for all repenting sinners. He is the propitiation for our sins; he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, and the chastisement of our peace was on him. O heal me by his stripes, and let the cry of his blood drown the clamour of my sins. I am indeed a child of wrath, but he is the Son of

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thy love. For his sake spare me, O Lord—spare thy creature, whom he hath redeemed with his most precious blood, and be not angry with me for ever. In his wounds, O Lord, I take sanctuary. O let not thy vengeance pursue me to this city of refuge. My soul hangeth upon him. O let me not perish; but, by my Saviour's agony and bloody sweat, by his cross and passion, by all that he did and suffered for sinners, good Lord, deliver me; deliver me, I beseech thee, from the wages of my sins—thy wrath and everlasting condemnation—in this time of my tribulation, in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, and do not repay my former neglect, by refusing to listen to me in this time of my greatest need. Lord, there is but a step between me and death. O let not my sun go down in thy wrath, but seal my pardon before I go hence, and be no more seen. Thy loving-kindness is better than life itself. O let me have that in exchange, and I shall most gladly lay down this mortal life. Lord, thou knowest all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from thee: deal thou with me according to thy name, for sweet is thy mercy; take away the sting of death, the guilt of my sins; and then, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. I will lay me down in peace, O Lord: when I awake up, let me be satisfied with thy presence in glory. Grant this, O merciful Lord, for his sake who is both the Redeemer and Mediator of sinners, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

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PRAYERS

FOR

SACRAMENTAL AND FAST DAYS.

A CONFESSION AND PRAYER.

ST CHRYSOSTOM.

O LORD my God, great, and terrible, and glorious, maker of the whole visible and conceivable creation, who keepest thy covenant and thy mercy with those who love thee and keep thy commandments; I thank thee now and always, for all the benefits which thou hast conferred upon me, seen and unseen. All my life long have I had cause to praise, and glorify, and magnify thee, because of the rich mercies and compassions which, with wonderful liberality, thou hast bestowed upon me, sustaining me from my mother's womb, and in all things providing for me, preserving me, and with holiness directing all that concerns me, solely from thy kindness and love to man. Thou hast not, on account of my unworthiness and unbridled

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passions, overlooked my low estate, but in thy kindness and compassion hast never ceased to benefit and provide for me. And till old age and grey hairs come upon me, forsake me not, O Lord Jesus Christ, my delight, my desire, and my hope; who for our sakes didst become man, and endure the death of the cross; and hast in wisdom directed all things, and ordered them for our salvation.

I make confession before thee, O Lord my God, with my whole heart. I bend my body and soul, confessing to thee, my God, all my sins. Incline thou also to my prayer, and forgive the impiety of my heart. I have erred — I have done wickedly — I have transgressed — I have provoked and exasperated my good Lord, my supporter and preserver. There is no kind of iniquity, utterable or unutterable, which I have not committed in deed and word, both knowingly and in ignorance; even in my thoughts and imaginations sinning excessively. And frequently when I have promised to reform my ways, as often have I fallen into the same evils. More easily might the drops of rain be numbered, than the multitude of my sins; for they have gone over mine head; as an heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. For from my youth, even till the present time, opening the door to foolish desires, I have indulged unrestrained and immoderate appetites, polluting the garment of my holy baptism, defiling the temple of my body, debasing

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my wretched soul with disgraceful passions, and practising every other transgression and iniquity, every one of which, if I should wish to mention, time would fail me.

My heart is consumed away, my soul is vexed, and I am altogether plunged into a sea of distress, considering that, though I have committed so many and such great sins, I have not shewn even a small token of genuine repentance. The time when I must be cut off is near, the appointed hour of death is at hand, and what time is there for repentance?

Therefore is my soul disquieted, and grieved, and full of shame. I am unfit and unprepared; and when I consider and judge my ways, I find nothing suitable for an apology; nor do I see means I can be rescued from eternal fire. For if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall I, a sinner, appear? And if through much tribulation, and with great difficulty, the kingdom of heaven is entered by the worthy — if strait and narrow is the way of life,—how shall I be esteemed worthy of salvation?

Alas, my soul! that it should be thus. Life is short and uncertain, quickly passing away, and carrying us onward to the grave. Eternal punishment is destined for the guilty, even as a kingdom awaits the just; and the life of neither is terminated by death. Death is terrible at the best; but the death of sinners is peculiarly awful. Terrible, also, are the fears after death, but far

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more terrible is it to fall into the hands of the living God, from whom none can deliver us. What shall I lament? what shall I deplore? The interminable punishment, or the separation from God?

When in this state, and reflecting thus, I cherish good hope, and despair not of my salvation. For I know the compassion of my Lord; I know that he is gracious, and loveth mercy, not desiring the death of the sinner, but rather that he should turn and live; willing that all men should be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth, and chiefly those who have been great transgressors. For thou didst not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. For they that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. Now, I have begun to speak to my Lord, though I am but dust and ashes, put words into my mouth, that I may pray acceptably, and solicit what is really profitable, so that I may not turn away humbled and disgraced, but may obtain what I hoped for; and thus I shall depart, rejoicing in the assured faith of my heart.

Pity me, O God, according to thy great compassion, because in thee does my soul trust. Pity me, O Lord, because I am weak, O thou Physician of soul and body. As if standing at thy dreadful tribunal, thus I beseech, entreat, and implore thee, with a humble and contrite heart. Be merciful to me a sinner; forgive me, insignifi-

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cant and worthless as I am. Look down from thy holy habitation on my wretched state. Listen from thy holy height to the prayers of thy humble servant, and despise not my supplication. Forgive me, that I may be refreshed, before I go whence I shall never return. As man, I have sinned; as God, do thou forgive. For thou knowest, O Lord, the frailty of human nature, and that the mind of man is altogether prone to evil from his youth. Remember thy compassion, which is from everlasting, and thy tender mercy, and do not condemn me in my iniquities, nor requite me according to my sins. Thou knowest the multitude of my iniquities, that they cannot be numbered. But I know, also, the ocean of thy love to man, that it is boundless and indescribable. For thou art he who taketh away the sin of the world, and thou didst descend from heaven to earth, that thou mightest seek thy wandering and lost sheep. Thou art the good Shepherd, who laid down his life for the sheep, and came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. O thou who didst grant the prayer of the thief on the cross, listen to this my penitential confession. Receive the fruit of my lips as a living sacrifice, well-pleasing, for a sweet-smelling savour. Do thou comfort my heart, Father of mercies, and God of all consolation. From eternity thou hast done many great, and wonderful, and surpassingly glorious things; still, therefore, will I cry to my

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God, and pray to my Lord. Direct the remainder of my life according to thy will; confirm me in thy fear; strengthen me in thy love.

Again, I pray and beseech thee, O Lord, to grant me, unworthy though I am, the grace of prudence, that I may know those things which are well-pleasing in thy sight, and advantageous to myself; and not only know, but do them. Grant that I may not be carried away by vanity, and do what is not becoming; but that, without vain-glory, I may be humbled with the humble, and sympathize with the suffering, and forgive those that offend me. O that the same mind may dwell in me which dwelt also in Christ Jesus, who was pure, and holy, and separate from sinners; who, when reviled, answered not again; nay, rather prayed for his bitterest enemies; whose meat and drink it was to do the will of his heavenly Father, and to finish the work which was given him to do; and who has left to his loving disciples this perfect example, that they should follow his steps. Animate me, gracious Lord, with thy Spirit, that so I may thus work out my salvation with fear and trembling, and be daily growing in meetness for seeing my God with confidence on the day of his appearing. And to thee, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, be glory, honour, and power ascribed, world without end. Amen.

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CONFESSION AND PRAYER ADAPTED TO THE RULES OF SELF-EXAMINATION.

REV. B. JENKS.

O Lord, the great and glorious God! against whom I have grievously offended, and who, for my sins, art justly displeased, I know not where to begin or end the rehearsal of all my transgressions, which are more than I can remember, and greater than I can express.

Thou art God alone, and there is none beside thee. Thou hast an absolute right over me, and thou alone art worthy to be worshipped and served by me. But, O Lord my God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over me. I have idolized myself, and things in this present world, and have set them in the stead of God; either disbelieving thy being, or disregarding thy presence, or disliking to retain thee in my thoughts, or living without thee in the world, I have not improved in thy knowledge answerably to the means of instruction wherewith thou hast blessed me. And that I have not better knowledge of God, it is my shame—it is altogether owing to my sinful dulness and negligence in that which most of all concerns me. I have not had all my expectations from thee, nor my whole dependence upon thee, nor my chief hope and delight in thee; but have sought my happiness in creature comforts

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and worldly enjoyments. O how have I hardened my heart against the fear of thee, who couldst in one moment destroy me, both body and soul, in hell! How have I sinned against the clear light which thou hast caused to shine upon me! and how have I shut my heart against the love of thee, my chief good, notwithstanding thou hast been doing me good, and laying fresh obligations upon me, with thy renewed favour, every day.

I have conceived injurious, unbecoming thoughts of thy infinite greatness and goodness, till I have become vain and wicked in my imaginations, thinking the most high and glorious God to be even such a one as myself; and instead of worshipping thee in spirit and in truth, it has been after my own fancy and humour, in a formal customary manner.

O what light account have I made of thy great name, and what little zeal have I shewed for thine honour and glory! how have I disregarded thy word and works, thy mercies and judgments, thy calls and warnings, and all thine offers and invitations! and either neglected the offices of thy worship, or profaned thy holy things, and abused religious duties, to discover my own offences; drawing nigh to thee with my mouth, when my heart is far from thee.

Thy day I have not remembered as I ought, to keep it holy; but have used as common what thou hast set apart as sacred, and borne the holy

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season as a burden, and made bold with thy hallowed time, to spend it upon sloth, and worldly trifles, and carnal indulgences.

O how have I failed and sinned in all my relations! As a superior, in pride and vanity; as an inferior, in stubbornness and envy; as a parent and child, master and servant, friend and neighbour, not discharging my duty, in any capacity, as I ought.

How careless have I been of my own and other's souls! How passionate and unmerciful, contentious and revengeful! Bitter in my words, malicious in my heart; tempting some to commit sin, neglecting to keep others from the commission of it, and not exerting my utmost endeavours to do good unto all.

O Lord, I am unclean, unclean! defiled with filthy imaginations in my head, and evil desires in my heart, which have often broke out into corrupt communication and indecent levity, and intemperate living after the flesh.

I have been unfaithful in the unrighteous mammon, and not honoured thee with my substance, nor done the good which thou hast made me capable of doing; but by idleness, and injurious intrenching on the rights of others, or by profuse consuming my portion according to my own desires, I have been a sacrilegious usurper of thy good creatures.

O what sinful liberties have I taken, in speaking evil of my neighbours! Using them in my words

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as I would ill endure to be used; slandering and reviling, dissembling, or rash-judging; and often wronging the truth, to avenge, to excuse, or exalt myself.

O what a nursery of covetous and carnal desires has been this corrupt and wicked heart of mine! Cherishing and delighting in evil—repining at the welfare of others—coveting all to myself, and making provision for the flesh to fulfil its desires.

Such sins have I committed against thy holy laws; and I have also sinned against thy gracious gospel, O Lord, not acquainting myself with the way of salvation by Jesus Christ, but neglecting his great salvation, and disregarding the only Saviour, whom to know and win should have been all my desire. I have not been awed by thy threatenings, nor allured by thy promises. I have not listened to the calls of thy word, nor yielded to the motions of thy Spirit; nor believed thy truths, nor loved thy days, nor improved the opportunities which thou hast graciously set before me. I have even shut my eyes against the things of my peace, and made light of my Saviour's invitations, and of the wonderful things which he has done and suffered for the salvation of my soul; taking pleasure in the enemies of his cross, little concerned for the success of his gospel, not laying to heart my own and other's sins, nor seriously repenting, nor fervently praying; but doing all these things as if I did them not.

Such is my heavy charge, this is my heinous

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guilt: O that I may not only confess it, but be duly humbled for it, and lay myself in the dust, if so there may be hope! And is there hope for so great and provoking a sinner? Lord of love, thou hast helped many poor miserable souls in a low and desperate condition; and many, I believe, are now triumphing and praising thee in glory, who long and grievously rebelled against thee here below. Such are the wonders of thy grace; and thus hast thou glorified thyself in seeking and saving that which was lost. And is thy hand shortened, that thou canst not save, or thy mercy exhausted, that thou wilt not hear? O be merciful unto me also, even unto me, the chief of sinners. Put me in the way where all thy goodness may pass before me: and help me to exercise such humiliation and repentance in thy sight, that thou mayest exercise thy pardoning and saving mercy towards my soul, and never lay my sins to my charge; but accept me for his sake, who, though he knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Nor do I beg only for the pardon of my sins, but also for the power to subdue them. For thy truth and mercy's sake, let thy preventing grace guard me from temptations in their first approach; and thy assisting grace enable me to withstand them, whenever I am called to the conflict: that so, through thine effectual help, I may overcome that cruel adversary, who walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may

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devour. Turn my feet, O blessed Lord, to thy testimonies; and help me, with an enlarged heart, to run the way of thy commandments. O give me grace to take and choose thee for my God; and to know and trust, and fear and love, and serve and worship thee, as it becomes me. Give me a deep reverence for thy name; an ardent zeal for thy glory; a devotion and constancy in all the duties of thy holy religion; a conscientious care to sanctify thy Sabbaths; and a due veneration and affection for all thy holy things.

Help me also, O my God, rightly to discharge all relative duties, towards my superiors, equals, and inferiors, even towards all with whom I have any conversation in the world: that I may give no just offence to any, but may rather win others by the amiableness and excellence of my deportment. O make me careful of my own and others' souls; make me peaceable and patient, merciful and mild, and in all things to love my neighbour as myself. Enable me to be chaste and pure in heart, sober and modest in speech and carriage; temperate in the use of thy good creatures; given to prayer, and all those exercises of godliness that tend to mortify the flesh. Make me also faithful in the unrighteous mammon; contented with my portion; industrious in my calling; upright in my dealing; honouring thee with my substance; and doing good, and not hurt, with that portion which thou hast been pleased to bestow upon me. Help me, O righteous God, ever to love and own, to

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confess and maintain, the truth; candidly to interpret the words and actions of others; not delighting in their shame, but being as tender of their reputation as I would desire they should be of mine. And help me, O my Lord, to resist the beginnings and first risings of evil in my mind, and to keep my heart with all diligence, so that it may never harbour or indulge any wicked desires. O let me not give my mind to earthly things; nor be carnally minded, which is death, but spiritually minded, which is life and peace. And incline me, O good God, to meditate on thy holy laws, yea, to love and keep them with my whole heart.

O make me resolved to live a life of holiness, according to thy blessed will and word. And let me not only think and purpose to live godly in Christ Jesus, but bring my purposes into actions, my actions into habits, and my habits into an uniform perseverance, so enduring to the end, that I may be saved. And through the ways of thy holy commands, O Lord, lead me to the joys of thy heavenly kingdom, that having my fruit unto holiness, I may, in the end, attain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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A PRAYER TO BE USED AT ANY TIME OF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE FASTING.

DR HORNECK.

O holy and most merciful Saviour, who hast given us the best religion, the wholesomest rules of living, the most equitable precepts that ever were delivered to the children of men; while I admire thy mercy, I cannot but bewail my own misery; while I wonder at thy goodness and tenderness to our souls, I cannot but deplore my own backwardness to the stricter rules of Christianity. How loth am I to curb my body. How unwilling to bring my flesh into subjection. How apt am I to flatter myself that heaven will come cheaper than at the price of mortification. O when will these vain imaginations leave me! How slavishly do I serve thee. How apt am I to limit my obedience. I want that free and bountiful spirit, that fervent love, which may think nothing too good for heaven. Lord, shew me the vanity of over tenderness to my body. Let my fasts have such good effects upon me, that my passions may die, my corruptions decay, my vanities become odious unto me. Let holiness become sweet, the light of thy countenance pleasant, and the influences of thy grace a delight to my soul. May abstinence from food work in me abstinence from evil. Let it prove a means

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to make my prayers fervent, my devotions quick, my mind clear, my affections lively, that I may at last enjoy the festivals of angels, and eat and drink with my Lord in his kingdom; then shall I fast from sin for ever; then shall I fast from all evil temptations; then shall I hunger no more after the meat that perishes; then shall I thirst no more after the muddy streams of sensual satisfactions; then shall my hunger be refined into fruition, my thirst exalted into enjoyment, and my heart filled with the glories of the Almighty; then shall I need no provision for this polluted body; then my flesh shall long no more after forbidden fruit; then shall I need no longer to care about what I shall eat, or what I shall drink, or wherewithal I shall be clothed; but upon thy boundless love shall I feed, and righteousness and everlasting holiness cover me with a robe of glory. Amen.

FOR PARDON OF SINS.

REV. J. KETTLEWELL.

O holy and most merciful Father, spare me, thy poor, sinful, but repenting creature. Spare me, good Lord, spare me, and let me not perish in my sins, now I am heartily troubled and sorry for them; but through thine infinite mercies, may I find pardon and acceptance notwithstanding them all.

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I am a sinful person, O Lord; but thou, O blessed Jesus, art the Saviour of sinners. Thou didst come into the world to call sinners to repentance. Lord, I come and repent at thy call, cast not me and my repentance away from thy presence.

I have gone astray, and, through the frailty of my flesh, am very defective in my return to thee. But thou, gracious Lord, considerest our frailties, thou knowest our frame, considerest whereof we are made, and rememberest that we are dust. O be not extreme to mark mine offences, but for Christ's sake blot out my transgressions, receive me graciously, and love me freely.

Now I have found the way to thy fear, let me find the comforts of thy mercy. My heart is truly contrite — O Lord, despise it not; my spirit is broken, and trembleth at thy word — O Lord, receive it; it is heavily laden, and wearied with my sins—O my God, give it ease from the same. Pity me, O Father, as a father pitieth his own children —receive me as the offended father did his returning prodigal. Though I was lost, yet, by the blessing of thy grace, I am now found again. Welcome thy lost sheep when it returns home, and let there be joy in heaven on the repentance of me, a lost sinner.

O let the blood of Jesus cleanse me from all my sins; let his intercession for me in thy presence make my peace, and appease thy wrath. Shut not thine ears against the voice of his blood, nor

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be deaf to his mediation, but hear him, my Advocate for pardon, and let me find the forgiveness of all my sins, that thy troubled and trembling servant may have peace, and that thou mayest be sought unto, and feared and served by sinners, who will return unto thee in hopes of thy grace and pardoning mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord and only Saviour. Amen.

BEFORE THE COMMUNION.

REV. MATTHEW HENRY.

Most holy, and blessed, and gracious Lord God, with all humility and reverence I here present myself before thee, to seek thy face and entreat thy favour, and, as an evidence of thy good will towards me, to beg that I may experience thy good work in me.

I acknowledge myself unworthy, utterly unworthy of the honour; unfit, utterly unfit for the service to which I am called. It is an inestimable privilege, that I am permitted so often to hear from thee in thy word, and to speak to thee in prayer; and yet as if this had been a small matter, I am now invited into communion with thee at thy holy table, there to celebrate the memorial of my Saviour's death, and to partake by faith of the precious benefits which flow from it. I, who deserve not the crumbs, am called to eat the children's bread.

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O Lord, I thank thee for the institution of this blessed ordinance, this precious legacy and token of love, which the Lord Jesus left to his church; that it is preserved to this age; that it is administered in this land; that I am admitted to it, and have now before me an opportunity to partake of it; Lord, grant that I may not receive thy grace herein in vain!

O thou who hast called me to the marriage-supper of the Lamb, give me the wedding garment; work in me a disposition of soul, and all those pious and devout affections which are suited to the solemnities of this ordinance, and requisite to qualify me for an acceptable and advantageous participation of it. Behold the fire and the wood, all things are now ready; but where is the lamb for the burnt-offering? Lord, provide thyself a lamb, by working in me all that thou requirest of me upon this occasion; the preparation of the heart and the answer of the tongue are both from thee; Lord, prepare my unprepared heart for communion with thee.

Lord, I confess I have sinned against thee; I have done foolishly, very foolishly, for foolishness is bound up in my heart. The imagination of my heart is evil continually, and the bias of my corrupt nature is very strong toward the world, and the flesh, and the gratifications of sense; but towards God, and Christ, and heaven, I move slowly, and with a great many stops and pauses. Nay, there is in my carnal mind a strong aversion to divine

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and spiritual things. I have mis-spent my time, trifled away my opportunities; have followed after lying vanities, and forsaken my own mercies. God be merciful to me a sinner! for how little have I done, since I came into the world, of the great work that I was sent into this world to perform!

Thou hast taken me into covenant with thee, for I am a baptized Christian, set apart for thee, and sealed to be thine; thou hast laid me, and I also have laid myself, under all possible obligations to love thee, and serve thee, and live to thee. But I have started aside from thee, and have not made good my covenant with thee, nor hath the temper of my mind, or the tenor of my conversation, been agreeable to that holy religion of which I make profession, to my expectations from thee, or my engagements to thee.

I am ever inclined to turn from the living God, and if I were under the law I were undone; but I am under grace, a covenant of grace, which leaves room for repentance, and promises pardon upon repentance. Lord, I take hold of this covenant, seal it to me at thy table. There let me find my heart truly humbled for sin, and sorrowing for it after a godly sort. O that I may there look upon him whom I have pierced, and mourn, and be in bitterness for him; that I may there sow in tears, and receive a broken Christ into a broken heart; and then let the blood of Christ be sprinkled upon my conscience, to purify

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and pacify it; then let me be assured that thou art reconciled to me, that my iniquities are pardoned, and that I shall not come into condemnation; then say unto me, "Be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee."

And that I may not come unworthily unto this blessed ordinance, I beseech thee, lead me into a more intimate acquaintance with Jesus Christ, and him crucified; with Jesus Christ, and him glorified, that knowing him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, and being by his grace renewed in the likeness of both, I may both discern the Lord's body, and shew forth the Lord's death.

Lord, I desire, by a true and lively faith, to close with Jesus Christ, and consent to him as my Lord and my God. I here give myself up to him as my Prophet, Priest, and King, to be ruled, and taught, and saved by him. Lord, increase this faith in me, perfect what is lacking in it, and enable me, in receiving the bread and wine at thy table, by a lively faith to receive Christ Jesus the Lord. O let the great Gospel doctrine of Christ's dying to save sinners, which is represented in that ordinance, be meat and drink to my soul — meat indeed, and drink indeed. Let it be both nourishing and refreshing to me, let it be my strength and my song, and the spring of my holiness and comfort. And let such deep impressions be made upon my soul, by the actual commemoration of it, as may abide always upon me, and have a

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powerful influence upon me in my whole conversation, that the life I now live in the flesh, I may live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Lord, I beseech thee, fix my thoughts; let my heart be engaged to approach unto thee, that I may attend upon thee without distraction. Draw out my desires towards thee; give me to hunger and thirst after righteousness, that I may be filled; and to draw near to thee with a true heart, and in full assurance of faith; and since I am not straitened in thee, let me not be straitened in my own bosom.

Draw me, O Lord, and I will run after thee; O send out thy light and thy truth, let them lead and guide me; pour thy Spirit upon me, put thy Spirit within me, to work in me both to will and to do that which is good, and leave me not to myself. Awake, O north wind, and come, thou south, and blow upon my garden.

O blessed Spirit of grace, enlighten my mind with the knowledge of Christ, bow my will to the will of Christ, fill my heart with the love of Christ, and confirm my resolutions to live and die with him.

Work in me, I pray thee, a principle of holy love and charity towards all men, that I may forgive my enemies, which, by thy grace, I heartily do, and may keep up a spiritual communion in faith, hope, and holy love, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus

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Christ, our Lord. O bless them all, and particularly that congregation with which I am to join in this solemn ordinance. Good Lord, pardon every one that engageth his heart to seek God, the Lord God of his fathers, though not cleansed according to the purification of the Sanctuary.

Lord, meet me with a blessing, a Father's blessing, at thy table; grace thine own institution with thy presence; and fulfil in me all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power; for the sake of Christ, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer, to whom, with the Father, and the eternal Spirit, be everlasting praises. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GRACE TO PROFIT BY THE GREAT ATONEMENT.

PRIMER, HENRY VIII.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, thy mercy and goodness are infinite, and without measure. It was thy mercy, and no goodness that was in us, which moved thee to send into the world thine only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and therein work the mystery of our redemption and salvation, according as thou hadst appointed, and spoken by the mouths of all thy prophets, which were from the beginning. Also, it was thy blessed will, thy mercy and goodness towards us, that thy heavenly Son did suffer persecution,

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trouble, and adversity; was betrayed, falsely accused, and unjustly condemned: and, finally, with most scornful rebukes, was put to a most painful and shameful death. All this, O heavenly Father, was done through thy mercy and blessed will, for our sakes, not only to answer and satisfy thy just wrath and anger, which we had deserved, both for the offences of our first parents, and yet daily do deserve by transgressing thy holy commandments, but also to restore us again to thy grace and favour, to endue us with thy heavenly gifts, that we might serve thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life; and, finally, to make us, by the free benefit of thy dearly beloved Son's blood, and the price of his most precious sacrifice, partners with him of his infinite and unspeakable glory and bliss in heaven. Wherefore, O heavenly Father, we beseech thee, pour upon us thy Holy Spirit, and make us in our hearts clearly to see, and most steadfastly to believe, this thine infinite gracious goodness, shewed and given unto us by thine own Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. And with this belief, make us to put all our confidence and hope of salvation in him, whom thou hast appointed to be our only Redeemer and Saviour. Make us always to render unto thee most humble and hearty thanks for thine incomprehensible mercy and goodness toward us. Finally, make us to profess the death of thy dearly beloved Son in renouncing and forsaking all sin, that we may plainly appear to rise

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with him in newness of life, in righteousness, innocency, and true holiness, and after this life to reign with him in everlasting glory. Hear us, O heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

BEFORE THE LORD'S SUPPER.

REV. H. GROVE.

O thou infinite and eternal Majesty, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Father in heaven! vouchsafe, with an eye of favour and compassion, to behold thy sinful creature, who now falls prostrate before thee, in humble adoration of thy distinguishing and most undeserved goodness to the children of men, and to me in particular, which I acknowledge to have been such as, beyond measure, to enhance the guilt of my offences against thee. With what sincerity, O Lord, thou desirest the conversion of sinners, the prosperity of thy saints, and the happiness of all that are upright in heart, thou hast abundantly discovered in the incarnation and death of thy well-beloved Son, our most worthy Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ; and in the rich variety of means which thou hast kindly provided for the healing the manifold disorders of our nature, and our continual progress towards perfection.

As for all these I bless and praise thy wise goodness, so, in a particular manner, and not least

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of all, for the institution of the holy Supper; which, coming recommended by the authority of my blessed Saviour, and bearing his name, as it was appointed in honour of his memory, I desire ever to value highly.

Being not only allowed, but invited, to attend this sacred feast, I joyfully accept the invitation, humbly trusting that thy grace hath made me in some degree meet to partake of so invaluable a privilege; and entreating thee, that what is farther wanting, in order to my communicating with greater advantage and acceptance, the same grace may supply. O let the blood of Jesus, thy Son, cleanse me from all sin; and his Spirit, even that eternal Spirit through which he offered himself without spot unto God, enlighten, sanctify, and rouse my spirit, naturally dark, depressed, and polluted. Give me understanding in all thy precepts, and help me to discern the meaning, and attain the ends, of that holy ordinance for which I am preparing. Let the sacred fire, falling from heaven, consume my drowsy affections, and kindle a flame of divine love in my breast, never to be extinguished. Grant, O Lord, that I may approach with the deepest sense of my own meanness, unworthiness, and guilt; and with the most exalted apprehensions of thy holiness and mercy, both of which thou hast so wonderfully displayed in the method of our redemption by Jesus Christ; that I may receive the pledges of thy forgiving love, and the memorials of my Saviour's passion,

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with a lively faith, and an abounding hope, with gratitude unfeigned, and joy unspeakable; and may so feel the attractive influence of his example, the efficacy of his death, and the power of his resurrection, that I may have my whole soul transported into love,—be all kindness and charity to men, and zeal for God and Jesus Christ,—may die unto sin, and live unto righteousness,—be able to tread on all the power of the enemy—to deny myself—despise the blandishments and temptations of the world—have my conversation in heaven, and overcome all opposition in the way of it,—and, finally, after having loved, and served, and followed my Saviour, without seeing him, may be with him, according to his own prayer, where he is, to behold his glory; and, with all the heavenly multitudes, ascribe blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

BEFORE RECEIVING THE COMMUNION.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

I do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in my own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. I am not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant me,

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therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of the body and blood of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, that my sinful body may be made clean by his body, and my soul washed through his most precious blood, and that I may evermore dwell in him, and he in me. Amen.

AFTER RECEIVING THE COMMUNION.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

O Lord and heavenly Father, I, thy humble servant, entirely desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, I and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here I offer and present to thee my soul and body to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto thee, humbly beseeching thee, that all we who are partakers of this holy communion, may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although I am unworthy, through my manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet I beseech thee to accept this my bounden duty and service, not weighing my merits, but pardoning my offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

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AFTER THE COMMUNION.

REV. B. JENKS.

I desire, with all my soul, to magnify thy blessed name, O Lord God, my heavenly Father, for all the expressions of thy love and bounty to me, a poor unworthy sinner; particularly for thy precious favours, and the renewed pledges of thy love in Christ Jesus, which I have received from thee this day; that thou hast admitted me, not only into thy house, but to thy table, and used me as thy friend, and thy child, though I deserve to be cast out from thee as an enemy. O what manner of love is this, that I should fare so well, who deserve so ill at thy hands! O that it should be so done to wretched sinful men! that the God, so greatly offended by us, should not only forgive us, but entertain and feast us with all the good things which our blessed Saviour has merited and prepared for us! Lord, what is man, that thou art so mindful of him, and the son of man that thou so visitest him! O make me to know the things that are freely given me of God, and to see how much I owe unto the Lord, for all thy kindness to my soul. O give me a heart duly sensible of thy mercy, and steadfastly purposing to live to thy glory, that I may shew my thankfulness for thy benefits, by my obedience to thy precepts. O keep me mindful of the vows which are upon me,

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and help me to live, as having my holy Redeemer now dwelling in me.

And as I have received Christ, so enable me to abide with him, to be more worthy of the Lord unto all well-pleasing, to walk in love as Christ hath loved us, and to go on in the strength of what I have received from thee, following after holiness, and perfecting it in thy fear.

As I have eat and drank the sacramental bread and wine, to the nourishment and refreshment of my frail body, so let the body and blood of God my Saviour, nourish and sustain my immortal soul unto life eternal.

And O that the sacrifice of Christ (which I have this day been commemorating at thy table) may atone for all the failings and defects of my preparations and performances, and that, upon the account of that grand propitiation for the sins of the whole world, I may be spared, and accepted with thee my God. O grant it, I beseech thee, through him that loved us, and gave himself for us, even the Son of thy love, the great lover of our souls, for whom, and to whom, with thy eternal self and Holy Spirit, be all thanks and praise, and honour and glory, ascribed of me, and of all thy Church, now and for evermore. Amen.

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AFTER THE LORD'S SUPPER.

REV. S. BICKERSTETH.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. Help me, holy Lord, coming now to thee in secret, gratefully to pour out my soul before thee.

O thou that dwellest in the high and holy place, I feel that I infinitely need pardon for the sins of my holiest services. I have cause to mourn the wanderings of my heart, the dulness of my repentance, even at thy table, with all the solemnities of the memorials of my Saviour's death around me, and amid the assembly of thy Church.

But while I mourn my own sinfulness, yet still help me to magnify thy wonderful grace. Blessed be thou, that put it into my heart to assemble with thy people. Great is the privilege, thus to meet among them here below, to participate in their prayers, and to join in their praises. Thanks be unto thee for that manifestation of thy love, which this ordinance brought before me.

Giver of all grace, if I enjoyed any feelings of love to thee, any desires after thy salvation, any thing of communion with thee — if my hope were at all enlivened, my faith at all strengthened, my heart at all enlarged, — all praise and glory be to thee. Forgive me all that was wrong, and accept,

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through the mediation of Jesus, all that thy grace enabled me to do according to thy will.

Teach me to feel that I am under fresh obligations to all holy obedience. May the solid and delightful joys of peace with God, the pardon of sins, free justification, and the hope of glory, make the sinful pleasures of the world for ever vain. Having seen and tasted how good the Lord is, may I never return unto folly.

Lord, it is now I need thy strength. O grant me thy Holy Spirit, continually to bring to my remembrance the solemn transactions of this day. May the recollection long remain, filling me with a holy fear of offending thee, an ardent love to my Saviour, and influencing me to devote my body, soul, and substance, all I am, and all I have, to thee.

O grant that my evil temper may at length be subdued; that the flesh, with its affections and lusts may, through thy Spirit, at length be mortified; that Christ may now dwell in my heart by faith; and that, strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might, I may fulfil in my life all the solemn vows and resolutions that have been renewed this day in thy presence.

Gracious Lord, let me never cease striving to serve thee; let me never, while the world tempts, and sin dwells in me, and Satan opposes, give over the contest, let me never rest short of thy great salvation. O thou good Shepherd, who laid down thy life for thy sheep, let me never

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perish, neither let any pluck me out of thy hand; till at length, with all thine elect, I come to occupy thy fold above. Hear me, gracious Father; hear and answer, for Christ's sake. Amen.

AFTER THE COMMUNION.

J. B. PICTET.

I cast myself at thy feet, O my God, to thank thee for all thy mercies, but more especially for that which I have now been receiving. Though outwardly but a single instance of thy goodness, it yet comprehends many blessings, every one of which deserves an everlasting thanksgiving. Well may I adore the boundless goodness and mercy in which thy blessings to me had their origin, when I think of my own unworthiness, and that thou hast not been prevented thereby from pouring them with such liberality upon my head. Lord, I should be undeserving of life if I felt not the obligations under which thou hast laid me, if I were not penetrated to the heart by thy goodness, if I were not actuated by a sincere and ardent desire to testify to thee my thankfulness.

Accept, then, O my God, my humble thanks for this thy great and wonderful loving-kindness. Thou hast carried me to thy house of prayer; thou hast placed in my hands the memorials of my Lord's broken body and shed blood, thereby sealing me anew unto the day of redemption, giving me a fresh proof that thou hast chosen me,

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and enabling me by faith to feed upon him who is made unto us wisdom, and sanctification, and life eternal. Blessed be thy name for this new mark of special favour to my soul. I was dead, and thou hast said unto me, Live; I am weary, and weak, and heavy laden, and thou hast given me Christ as the resting-place of my soul, nay, to dwell in me as the hope of glory hereafter, and the earnest of many a victory won over sin and Satan, the world, and the flesh.

May it please thee, gracious Lord, to give me the succours of thy Holy Spirit, to strengthen me for the performance of every duty incumbent upon me for the future. Fill my heart with zeal and ardour in thy service, with love and respect for thy holy will, with hatred and aversion to sin, with contempt for the world and its false gratifications. Sustain me during the course of my life; and whatever, in thy providence, should befal me, forbid, O my God, that I should ever abandon thee. Make my desire to please and serve thee pass into an abiding resolution. O Lord, I ask of thee all that is necessary to prepare me for receiving from thy hand all those infinite blessings, the earnest and assurance of which I have received in thy holy sacrament.

And whilst I am in this world, O Lord, leave me not to myself. Abandon me not to my spiritual enemies, to my native weakness, inconstancy, and sinful inclinations. May I be found ever advancing towards the end and object of my vocation, that perfection which is in Christ Jesus,

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and becometh thine house. May I be daily gaining fresh victories over myself, and learn to bring my heart more and more under the yoke of faith. For which purpose, may it please thee to watch over me by thy providence, and continue towards me thy protection and care, till the last moments of my life. Forbid, O good Lord, that thy coming should surprise me. Forbid that it should find me asleep or off my guard: make me to be always waiting, always ready to bid thee welcome. May my faith be ever lively, my charity ever active; my heart detached from the world and its delights, and fixed upon thee, as the object of its only desire.

Lord, go up with me, then, through this wilderness, and let that peace of thine which passeth understanding, which the world can neither give nor take away, reign ever in my soul, until, transported to the heavenly Jerusalem, that city of peace, and calm, and repose, elevated above the storms and tempests of this world, and united inseparably to thee, I shall be in some degree a partaker of thy immutability, behold thy face in glory, and satisfy myself with the joys of thy sanctuary, the eternal pleasures which are at thy right hand. This I ask of thee, relying on the intercession of thy Son, the Prince of Peace, the King of glory, to whom, with thee, and the eternal Spirit, I ascribe all blessing and praise for evermore. Amen.

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A FORM OF SELF-DEDICATION.

REV. THOMAS BOSTON.

O Lord, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I confess that I am by nature a lost sinner, wholly corrupted, and laid under the curse, in Adam, through the breach of the covenant of works, and that I have ruined myself more and more by my actual transgressions innumerable. I am convinced, and do acknowledge, that I am utterly unable to help myself, in whole or in part, out of this gulf of sin and misery into which I am plunged, and that it is beyond the reach of the whole creation to help me out of it; so that I must inevitably perish for ever, if thy strong hand does not help me.

But forasmuch as there is a covenant of grace, for life and salvation to lost sinners, established between thee and thy Son, the Lord Jesus, wherein, upon condition of the perfect satisfaction to justice by his death and sufferings, thou hast promised that thou wilt be their God, and they shall be thy people, to the making of them holy and happy for ever; I, a poor perishing sinner, do take hold of that covenant for life and salvation, believing in the name of Christ crucified, who, by the sacrifice of himself, hath made atonement, paid the ransom, and brought in everlasting righteousness for poor sinners.

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O my God, I do, by thy grace, acquiesce in that covenant, as all my salvation and all my desire. With my whole heart and soul, I believe the Son incarnate is my only Priest, my Surety, my Intercessor, and my Redeemer; and in him, the Father my Father, the Holy Ghost my Sanctifier, God in Christ my God. I resign myself, soul and body, to him, to be saved by his blood alone; renouncing all confidence in my own righteousness, doings, and sufferings. With my whole heart and soul I am his, only and for ever; to live by him, to him, and for him. I take him for my Prophet, Oracle, and Guide, to be directed in all things by his word and Spirit; and renounce mine own wisdom, and the wisdom of this world. And I resign myself, soul and body, unto him, to be rescued, by the strength of his mighty hand, from sin, death, the devil, and this present evil world, to serve him for ever, and to be ruled by the will of his command as to my duty, and the will of his providence as to my lot.

Lord, thou knowest I am content to part with and renounce every known sin, and particularly that which most easily besets me, together with my own foolish will, and all other lords beside Christ, without reservation, and without exception against his cross; protesting in thy sight, O Lord, that I am, through grace, willing to have discovered unto me, and upon discovery to part from, every sin in me that I know not; and that the doubtings and averseness of heart mixed with this

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my accepting of thy covenant, are what I allow not; and that, notwithstanding thereof, I look to be accepted of thee herein, in the beloved Saviour, washing away these, with all my other sins, by his precious blood.

O Lord, let it be recorded in heaven, that I, though most unworthy, have this day come into thy covenant of grace, offered and exhibited to me in thy Gospel; and that thou art my God, and I am one of thy people, henceforth and for ever. Amen.

A SOLEMN FORM OF SELF-DEDICATION TO GOD.

DR DODDRIDGE.

Eternal and ever-blessed God, I desire to present myself before thee, with the deepest humiliation and abasement of soul, sensible how unworthy such a sinful creature is to appear before the Holy Majesty of heaven, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and especially on such an occasion as this. But, Lord, thine infinite condescension hath offered this covenant by thy Son, and thy grace hath inclined my heart to accept of it.

I come, therefore, acknowledging myself to have been a great offender, smiting on my breast, and saying, with the humble publican, "God be merciful to me a sinner!"

I come invited by the name of thy Son, and trusting wholly in his perfect righteousness;

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entreating that, for his sake, thou wilt be merciful to my unrighteousness, and wilt no more remember my sins. Receive, I beseech thee, thy revolted creature, who is now convinced of thy right to him, and desires nothing so much as to be thine.

This day do I, with the utmost solemnity, surrender myself to thee. I renounce all former lords, that have had dominion over me; and I consecrate to thee all that I am, and all that I have,—the faculties of my mind, the members of my body, my worldly possessions, my time, and my influence over others,—to be all used entirely for thy glory, and resolutely employed in obedience to thy commands, as thou continuest me in life; with an ardent desire and humble resolution to continue thine through all the endless ages of eternity, ever holding myself in an attentive posture to observe the first intimations of thy will, and ready to spring forward, with zeal and joy, to the immediate execution of it.

To thy direction also I resign myself, and all I am and have to be disposed of by thee in such a manner as thou shalt, in thine infinite wisdom, judge most subservient to the purposes of thy glory. Father, I leave the management of all events, and say, without reserve, "Not my will, but thine be done;" rejoicing, with a loyal heart, in thine unlimited government, as what ought to be the delight of the whole rational creation.

Use me, O Lord, I beseech thee, as an instrument for thy service; number me among thy peculiar

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people; let me be washed in the blood of thy dear Son; let me be clothed with his righteousness; let me be sanctified by his Spirit; transform me more and more unto his image; impart to me, through him, all needful influences of thy purifying, cheering, and comforting Spirit. And let my life be spent under those influences, and in the light of thy gracious countenance, as my Father and my God.

And when the solemn hour of death comes, may I remember this thy covenant, "well ordered in all things, and sure, as all my salvation and all my desire,"—though every other hope and enjoyment is perishing. And do thou, O Lord, remember it too! Put strength and confidence into my departing Spirit, and receive it to the abodes of them that sleep in Jesus, peacefully and joyfully to wait the accomplishment of thy great promise to all thy people, even that of a glorious resurrection, and of eternal happiness in thy heavenly presence. And if any surviving friend should, when I am in the dust, meet with this memorial of my solemn transactions with thee, may he make the engagement his own; and do thou graciously admit him to partake in all the blessings of thy covenant, through Jesus, the great Mediator of it; to whom, with thee, O Father, and thy Holy Spirit, be everlasting praises ascribed by all the millions who are thus saved by thee, and by all those other celestial spirits, in whose work and blessedness thou shalt call them to share. Amen.

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THANKSGIVINGS.

THANKSGIVING FOR CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS.

BISHOP KENN.

O THOU, my crucified Saviour, glory be to thee for causing thy sufferings to be registered in the Gospel. There I have read and remember the wonders and triumphs of thy almighty love, for which I will always adore and praise thee.

I remember, O gracious Lord, how thou, who thoughtest it no robbery to be equal with God, wast made in the fashion of frail man; I remember how many reproaches and contradictions, and blasphemies and persecutions, thou didst endure from a wicked and perverse generation, — and all this to save us sinful men.

I remember, O gracious Lord, how thou didst endure a most bitter agony, and didst sweat as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground; how thou, who art God above all, blessed for ever, wast treacherously betrayed and apprehended, and bound as a malefactor; how thou wast set at nought by Herod and his men of war, and forsaken of all thy disciples, and denied by Peter,—and all this to save us sinful men.

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I remember how thou, O God of truth, wast accused by false witnesses; how thou, whom all the angels adore, wast blindfolded and buffeted. and mocked and spit upon, and stript naked and scourged,—and all this that we may be healed by thy stripes, and to save us sinful men.

I remember, Lord, how thou, that art the great Judge of heaven and earth, wast thyself dragged to the judgment seat, and condemned; how thou, O King of heaven, wast crowned with thorns, and oppressed with the weight of thy own cross,—and all this to save us sinful men.

I remember, blessed Saviour, how thou, who art the Lord of glory, and the sole author of life, wast put to a most ignominious death; how thy hands and feet were nailed to a cross; how thou wast crucified between two thieves, and numbered with the transgressors; and hadst a potion given thee to embitter thy very last moments,—and all this to save us sinful men.

I remember, O gracious Lord, how, when thou wast hanging on the very cross, thou wert scoffed at and reviled; how infinitely then thou wast afflicted and bruised for our transgressions, when the iniquities of us all were laid on thy shoulders; how thou didst then express an anguish greater than all the tortures of thy crucifixion, when thou didst cry out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"—and how thou didst at the last give up the ghost, and die thyself that we might live.

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Was there ever sorrow like that which my Lord and my God endured for me? Was there any love like to that which my Lord and my God hath shewn to me? O my Saviour, with all my heart I love and adore thine infinite love and benignity to sinners: with all my heart I lament and detest the hatred and outrage of sinners to thee. Instil, O my God, penitential love into my soul, that I may grieve for my sins, which grieved thee; that I may love thee for suffering for us sinners, who occasioned all thy griefs. O may I always love thee; O may I never grieve thee more! By the love of thy cross, O Jesus, I live; in that alone will I glory; that above all things will I study; that above all things will I value; by the love of thy cross will I take up my cross daily, and follow thee; I will persecute, torment, and crucify my sinful affections and lusts, which persecuted, tormented, and crucified thee; and, if thy love calls me to it, I will suffer on the cross for thee, as thou hast done for me.

How illustrious and amiable were thy graces amidst all thy sufferings, O thou afflicted Jesus! I admire and love thy profound humility, unwearied patience, lamblike meekness, immaculate innocence, invincible courage, absolute resignation, compassionate love of souls, and perfect charity to thine enemies. Give me grace to tread in thy steps, and conform me to thy divine image: that the more I grow like thee, the more I may love thee, and the more I may be loved by thee. Amen, Lord Jesus, amen.

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THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER ON A BIRTH-DAY.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O blessed and eternal Lord, I give thee praise and glory for thy great mercy in causing me to be born of Christian parents, and not allotting me a portion with misbelievers and heathens that have never known thee. Thy hand hast sustained and brought me to the light of the world, and the illumination of baptism, thy grace leading me to virtue, and by an artificial necessity and holy prevention, engaging me to the profession and practices of Christianity. Lord, since that, I have broken the promises made in my behalf, I have gone back from them by an evil life; and yet thou hast still continued to me life and time of repentance, and didst not cut me off in the beginning of my days, and the progress of my sins. O merciful Father, pardon the errors and ignorances, the vices and vanities, of my youth, and the faults of my more forward years, and let me never more stain the whiteness of my baptismal robe; and by thy grace may I still persist in the purposes of obedience, and give up my name to Christ, and glory to be a disciple of thy covenant, and a servant of Jesus; let no root of bitterness spring up and disorder my purposes, and defile my spirit. O let my years be so many degrees of nearer approach to thee: and forsake me not, O God, in my old age, when I am grey-

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headed; and when my strength faileth me, be thou my strength and my guide unto death; that I may reckon my years, and apply my heart unto wisdom; and at last, after spending a holy and a blessed life, I may be brought into a glorious eternity, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR PRESERVATION AND DELIVERY FROM DANGERS AND TROUBLES.

REV. B. JENKS.

Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts towards us for good; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I should declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. According to thy name, so is thy praise to the ends of the earth. I will be glad and rejoice in thee, and sing praise to thy name, O thou Most High. I will praise thee, O Lord, for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.

I found trouble and sorrow: then I called upon thee; and thou wast attentive to my cry, and nigh to my help. And though thou mightest have made me an example of thy judgments to others, as others have been to me, thou didst not consult my deserts, but my distress; doing great things, and working strange deliverance for me, not because I was worthy, but because thou aboundest in mercy.

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I was in woful perplexity: fear was on every side; all my hope was ready to expire; and I thought there was no help for me, but that I must sink and perish. Then didst thou, O Lord, interpose between me and the threatening mischief; and didst reveal thy glorious arm to pluck me out of the jaws of destruction; and didst set me at liberty from my fears, and in safety from my dangers.

Thou hast kept me alive, and restored my comforts, not taking me away in the midst of my days, nor cutting me off untimely from the land of the living, but sparing me in mercy, and giving me, as it were, new life from the dead. Thou hast chastened me, but not given me over unto death. Thou art the God that doest wonders of power, and wonders of mercy. Yea, thy kindness and thy help in the time of my need have been greater than I am able to express.

Thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work. I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy; for thou hast been my support, and my refuge in the day of my trouble. O Lord God, merciful and gracious, I will extol thee, who hast not suffered trouble nor danger to overwhelm me. In my distress I called upon thee, and thou hast enlarged me. I cannot look back upon the perilous state I was in, and the brink of ruin to which I was brought, without amazement. O my God, it is thy good hand that hath wrought so wonderfully for me, and

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thy fatherly kindness that hath shewn me such extraordinary mercy. O if I had been snatched away unprepared, how dreadful a change should I have found! But in mercy to my soul thou hast made a way for my escape: and I am preserved a living monument of thy unspeakable goodness.

O what shall I say unto thee, whose name is exalted far above all blessing and praise! I can never fulfil, dear Lord, the obligations which thy love has laid upon me; but let me admire, and love, and bless, and praise thee, with all the faculties and powers which thou hast given me. And O that thou wouldst imprint so deeply on my heart a sense of thy mercy, that I may never forget, never slight, never abuse, the great goodness which thou hast shewn me, and the signal deliverance which thou hast wrought for me; but may ever give thee thanks with all my heart, and walk as becomes me all the days of my life; not secure and careless because I have so escaped, but the more watchful and diligent, in proportion to the mercies vouchsafed unto me; approving my thankfulness in such a manner, as that thou mayest graciously accept me through my blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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A GENERAL THANKSGIVING FOR MERCIES RECEIVED.

NATHANAEL SPINCKES.

Almighty and most loving Father, the Father of mercies and God of all consolation, I here prostrate myself at thy feet, humbly acknowledging thy bounty and goodness to me; desiring to bless and praise thy holy name, both now and evermore, for such thine abundant loving-kindness. It was of thine own good pleasure that thou at first gavest me a being; it is of thy most gracious hand over me that I am still preserved in it, notwithstanding all the dangers to which I am continually exposed. Through thy patience and compassion towards me, I am now on this side the grave, and everlasting misery, for I have deserved nothing but thy wrath and indignation. Yet dost thou not fail to multiply thy blessings upon me from day to day, — blessings both spiritual and temporal, for this life, and in order to a better. Praised be thy name, O Lord, for dealing thus bountifully with me. While I live will I praise the Lord; yea, as long as I have any being, I will sing praises to my God. My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and salvation all the day long, for I know no end thereof. Blessed be the Lord who only doth wondrous things, and praised be the name of his majesty for ever.

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Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honour, and power. May men and angels never cease to worship and adore thee, and bless and magnify thy holy name, for thine infinite goodness to the sons of men. As for me, it shall be my constant study to express my unfeigned gratitude for the innumerable benefits received from thy bounty. All praise, all glory, be to thee for my creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; for my health and strength, reason and understanding, my peace and quiet, my credit and reputation, my friends and relations, and whatever tends to make my existence here comfortable. It is all owing to thee alone, and to thee, therefore, be the praise to all ages.

But above all, may my soul, and all that is within me, glorify thee for that most gracious provision thou hast vouchsafed to make for me, in order to a better life, when this shall have an end, — for my redemption by the death and passion of my blessed Saviour,—for the glad tidings of the Gospel, which not only has brought life and immortality to light, and shewn us the way to it, now opened through his merits, but has, moreover, informed us what duty is required in order to it, and how we must be qualified before we can be partakers of it, — for the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost — for the glorious effects in the speedy and miraculous propagation of Christianity through the world — for that assis-

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tance which is yet continued to myself and others, for enabling us to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called — for thy word and sacraments — for the examples of thy saints and martyrs, of the holy apostles, and, above all, of our blessed Lord himself, who was made like unto us in all things, sin only excepted — and for all the means of grace, and hope of glory, which I enjoy through him.

Let a sense, I beseech thee, O Lord, of these thy great mercies be constantly fixed in my mind, and so deeply rooted and fixed there, as that I may never make thee any unequal returns for them, but all the powers of my soul may exert themselves to set forth thy glory. Fill my mind, with such unfeigned repentance to thee, as may never cease to shew itself, not merely by a bare return of praise, but likewise by the holiness and uprightness of my conversation. Make me to be in the fear of the Lord all the day long, and never permit me to do any thing unworthy of such goodness to me, but may I perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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THANKSGIVING ON RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

REV. B. JENKS.

O God of my life, in whose hand my breath is, and by whom all men do live, and have their days prolonged or shortened; I was brought low, and ready to think that thou wouldst now cut me off, and make an end of my days upon earth; I counted myself so nigh unto death, that I expected every day that last enemy to come and seize upon me. But thou, Lord, hast graciously disappointed my fears, and rescued me from his hands, and raised me up to walk again before thee in the land of the living. Though thou broughtest me even to the mouth of the grave, yet hast thou rescued me from the pit of corruption; and thou that gavest me life at first, hast now given it to me afresh. To thee, therefore, O my God, I desire with all my soul to give praise. Blessed be my great preserver, the only Saviour of my body as well as soul, the God of my health, my heavenly physician, my life, and the length of my days. O that I may live to declare the works of the Lord, and to set forth the honour of his name. Let me never look upon my extended life, as an occasion to enjoy pleasure upon earth, but as an engagement on my heart, to abound in gratitude, and love, and praise, and all faithful duty and cheerful obedience to my gracious God.

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In mercy to my soul, O Lord, thou hast prolonged my life, and given me space to repent; that by correcting what was amiss, and filling up what was wanting in my spiritual estate, I might be more ready to give up my account unto thee. O that, my life being now renewed, I may henceforth live as one restored from the dead, and retain such an abiding sense of eternity upon my mind, as may keep me unwearied in my preparations for it.

It is a reprieve that is now granted me; my death is a debt to nature, which I must certainly pay, and I know not how soon. O then let me not live as if I should never see death; nor put it far from me, as if it should never arrive; nor reckon upon any sure standing, or long abiding in such a changeable transitory world, that is but the place of our pilgrimage, and not the house of our rest. But since dust I am, and must to dust return, O help me, Lord, so to remember and consider my death, that I may be the better for it in all the course and conduct of my life. Enable me to walk with such wise and holy circumspection, and so to order all my conversation in the world, that when I must close my eyes upon this present scene, I may depart hence full of peace, and hope, and joy. And for my recovery, and such health as I at present enjoy, let me pay my vows unto the Lord, and from the ground of my heart ascribe to thee, the God of my salvation, all glory, thanks, and love, and service, throughout the whole remainder of my life, and for evermore. Amen.

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INTERCESSIONS.

FOR THE ENLARGEMENT OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.

REV. B. JENKS.

O God of all grace, who hast called out of this present evil world a chosen generation to know thy will, to seek thy face, to follow thy ways, and to inherit thy glory, pour out thy blessings upon those who are yet in darkness and the shadow of death; make bare thine arm, and exert thy power, that all the ends of the earth may remember themselves, and turn to the Lord, and that all flesh may see the salvation of God. Call home to thee again thy once favoured people the Jews, and take the veil from their hearts, that they may see and own their Messiah. Let that blood of Christ, which they so profanely imprecated upon their own heads, cleanse them from all their sins. Bring in, O Lord, the fulness of the Gentiles, and give thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. O give thy Gospel a free and effectual course throughout the world; let it be propagated where it has not yet reached, and let the joyful sound be

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heard, even where Christ is not yet named. Give it success where it already shines; let all who receive it sincerely obey it; cause every one that names the name of Christ, to depart from iniquity; and grant that all who make a profession of godliness may be constrained, by the love of Christ, to live unto thee, and to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

Convince and convert both the avowed enemies of Christ, and also the adversaries in his own house. Beat down all anti-Christian powers, and shew them the light of thy truth, that they may know it as it is in Jesus; expel their prejudices, together with their darkness; and bring them to receive thy truth, that they may be saved. May the true religion of our Lord prevail powerfully, and daily gain proselytes throughout the world. O thou Father of lights, grant that all errors in doctrine, and all ungodliness in practice, may be more and more exposed and suppressed, till they be utterly abolished! Let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, but let truth and righteousness increase and flourish, even to the ends of the earth. Grant this, we beseech thee, through the abundant grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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FOR THE MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O most blessed Saviour Jesus, King of heaven and earth, and the Head and Prince of the Christian Church, who hast appointed thy servants ministers and stewards in the house of thy Father, to give bread to the hungry, and drink to them that thirst after the water of life, continue and bless, sanctify and adorn, with thy gifts and graces, all the spiritual guides whom thou hast given to us; that they may continue in thy service to comfort the afflicted, to instruct the ignorant, to confirm the strong, and to defend and promote thy truth. Remove not thy lamp from us, neither quench thou the light of the Gospel; but let thy servants our ministers be like burning and shining lights in the temple of God, by a continual, never-failing succession offering up the daily sacrifice, rejoicing in the plenty of peace, and the employments of thy house, in holy offices and a constant ministration; that thou being for ever glorified, we may be thy peculiar people, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, clothed with righteousness, and singing with joyfulness eternal hallelujahs, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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A PRAYER FOR OUR ENEMIES.

REV. B. JENKS.

O Lord of love, and Prince of peace, who hast told us, that thou camest to send a sword and fire upon earth, and that through much tribulation we must enter into thy kingdom, what am I, a sinful creature, to hope to be exempted from the common portion of all thy followers? If I have raised up enemies to myself by my own misconduct, Lord, incline and enable me to appease and gain them; and so direct my ways to please thee, that even my enemies may be constrained to be at peace with me. And as for such as are my enemies wrongfully, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge; but forgive them, and open their eyes, and pacify their minds, and turn their hearts, that they may see their error; and being first reconciled to thee, may learn to dwell with their brethren in unity and godly love.

If, while I study, as much as lieth in me, to live peaceably with them, they still render evil for good, enable me to requite them with nothing but good, and evermore to love my enemies, according to thy command, and according to that example which thou hast shewed us in dying for thine enemies. Let me, in all that I suffer from them, consider them as thy rod, and the staff of thine indignation; that, instead of striving to

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avenge myself, I may humbly submit to thy fatherly corrections.

O good Lord, mortify in all of us the carnal mind, that is enmity against God, and those passions that war in our members, from whence arise dissentions amongst us. Turn all our enmities against the common adversaries of our souls, and unite all our thoughts to thee, in thy true fear and love; that we may not meditate revenge, but study to be quiet; nor foment and pursue our quarrels, but follow after things that make for peace, and, with one mind, and one voice, glorify God, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOR OUR BENEFACTORS AND FRIENDS.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

O Almighty God, thou Fountain of all good, of all excellence, both to men and angels, extend thine abundant favour and loving-kindness to all my friends and benefactors; reward them, and make them plentiful recompense for all the good which, from thy merciful providence, they have bestowed unto me. Let the light of thy countenance shine upon them, and let them never come into any affliction or sadness but such as may be an instrument of thy glory, and of their eternal comfort. Forgive them all their sins; let thy divine Spirit preserve them from every evil; let thy ministering angels guard their persons from

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the violence and malice of the spirits of darkness; and do thou, who knowest every degree of their necessity, give supply to all their needs by thy glorious mercy,—preserving their persons, sanctifying their hearts, and leading them in the ways of righteousness, by the waters of comfort, to the land of everlasting rest and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOR OUR RELATIVES.

BISHOP KENN.

O Lord, graciously accept my prayers for all my kindred and friends. O God, do good unto them all. To those that err, shew thy truth; and those who seek it, keep from error. To those who do amiss, give grace to do better; and those that do well, continue in well-doing. To those that are afflicted, give patience and comfort; to those who prosper, humility and temperance. Bless the sick with health, and keep the healthy from sickness. Supply those who are in want, and let those who want not give supply. To all grant thy grace, O God! and shew thy mercy. Let love bind us one to another, and may religion knit us all to thee, that all who are of natural kindred may meet in heavenly fellowship. Even so, Lord, let the blood of Jesus run through all the veins, and may the Spirit of Jesus go along with the blood, that the glory of Jesus may be

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the end of us all; and that, however we suffer and scatter on earth, we may live and be in joy together in the bliss and felicity of heaven, by the union of that Holy Spirit, and communion of that blessed blood. Amen and Amen.

FOR ALL CONDITIONS OF MEN.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, I humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men, that thou wouldst be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially, I pray for the good estate of the Catholic Church, that it may be guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians, may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, I commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate, that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this I beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

THE END.

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